- **Entertainment / A28**

Rio's last words to her son

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GMA leaves for EU-Asean summit in Vietnam

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Marikina starts door-to-door population campaign

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World oil prices soar to $51 per barrel

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One more year with La Salle for Mac Cardona

- **INQUIRER IN-DEPTH**

Paano umiwas ng 5-6?
Tip para sa mga uutang
Ngayong 10:30 ng gabi, sa ABC

Court orders BIR to refund Lucio Tan P1.036 billion

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE GOVERNMENT has suffered a major blow in its tax collection efforts after it lost a P1.036-billion tax case against Chinese-Filipino businessman Lucio Tan at the Court of Appeals.

The case is different from the P25-billion

COURT/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Man finds perfect wife after marrying 53 times

KUALA LUMPUR—In what is touted as a national record, a 72-year-old Malaysian Muslim first tied the knot 47 years ago, and tied it again and again 53 times. This week, he arrived at where he

MAN/ A5

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₱1,200 subsidy for poor planned

Program to cost gov't P6 billion a month

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT is considering giving out food coupons worth a "minimum" of P1,200 monthly to some five million families nationwide before the end of October—for a tab of P6 billion a month.

The 20 poorest families in every barangay—now being identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development with the help of local government units—will be the beneficiaries of the "intensified food voucher system," Social Welfare Undersecretary Celia Yangco said yesterday at a press briefing in Malacañang.

She said the National Anti-Poverty Commission and the DSWD were now discussing how to "intensify" the planned food assistance in light of the recent Social Weather Stations survey, which said the incidence of hunger among Filipinos had risen, with one in every seven families having had nothing to eat once or twice in the past three months.

Even the Catholic Church, to which people usually turn for hope, sees only darker days ahead for the poor.

"This is bad. Once the government starts giving out food coupons, it means there is a crisis in food ... It is an acknowledgment of the fact that many Filipinos are really poor," Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez told reporters at the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines media office in Manila.

"If the government does not take drastic measures, this will become an economic crisis and turn into a humanitarian crisis," he said.

Iñiguez, who chairs the CBCP public affairs commission, said the planned food coupon system would only reinforce the feeling of poverty.

"It's very, very difficult for us [to give hope] because the state of poverty seems to be getting [so wide and deep] that even immediate measures to address it seem futile," he said.

Iñiguez urged the government to get to the root causes of poverty instead of stopping at "palliatives."

"[Government officials] are not that kind of idiots. They see what the real problem is," he said.

He pointed out that the government should not feel that its food coupons, similar to the feeding programs of parishes and nongovernment organizations, were enough to solve the problem.

Iñiguez said graft and corruption were a main cause of poverty, citing a study saying that 40 percent of government revenues were lost to corruption.

He also said the government should spend more for social services instead of debt service, which he said was one of the "evils."

"Corruption continues. It is getting worse. That is why ... economic evil has grown to this [magnitude of] poverty," he said.

Iñiguez said the government should provide alternatives like a livelihood program, so that the poor would not develop the dole-out mentality.

But he also called on all Catholics to help solve the poverty problem in any way they could.

"Help should come from the Church as a

P1,200 SUBSIDY/ A6

Dayrit to critics: It's the economy, not population

By Martin P. Marfil and Blanche S. Rivera

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit does not believe overpopulation is even partly causing the hunger that is stalking Filipino households. The problem is "economic," he said on Tuesday night, as though the two problems were not related.

"It's simplistic to say [there is hunger because of overpopulation]," Dayrit told reporters. "Many do not have jobs, or [there's not] enough economic activity, so there's not enough food."

Dayrit was speaking at the launch of the private sector's "Leaders for Health," a program that trains government doctors, community leaders, and mayors for community health activities.

Earlier that day, Sen. Juan Flavier said a Social Weather Stations survey that showed 15.1 percent of Filipino households had nothing to eat at least once in the last three months highlighted the problem of population growth.

Dayrit protested. "There are countries

DAYRIT/ A6

EDWIN BACASMAS

SMART, a role model and worldwide "idol" of her generation, Fil-Am Jasmine Trias arrives here on Wednesday for her first visit to her parents' homeland. On Oct. 16, she performs at the Araneta Coliseum where she's expected to display the personality, and the voice that propelled her to the final top three of the wildly popular "American Idol" talent search in the US.

Fil-Am 'Idol' rouses 'Jasmania' in Manila

By Marinel R. Cruz

BELIEVE it or not, Jasmine Trias has put "American Idol" behind her.

The diminutive Fil-Am singer, who became a worldwide celebrity via the wildly popular singing competition in the United States, said so several times yesterday upon arrival in Manila for her first-ever visit to the land of her parents' birth.

She wasn't wearing her trademark flower behind the ear.

"I forgot about the show already."

"I really don't think about the show anymore."

"I've moved on."

Trias, 17, arrived at 1:15 p.m. to a rousing welcome from fans and media jostling at the airport to get a glimpse of her. Thus, "Jasmania" in Manila officially started.

She had come straight from Singapore, the last leg of the AI 2004's post-competition 50-city tour.

Born and raised in Hawaii,

FIL-AM/ A4

Colonel probed over ₱50-M fortune

By Fe Zamora

EVEN the former budget officer of the general found to have acquired unexplained wealth has an estimated P50-million fortune in real estate, vehicles and cash deposits, according to documents submitted to the office of the Armed Forces' Ombudsman.

The documents identified the officer as Lt. Col. George Rabusa, former chief of the budget division at the Office of the AFP Comptroller that Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia formerly headed.

A lawyer at the AFP Ombudsman confirmed that Rabusa was investigated in connection with a graft complaint filed in 2002. The lawyer said the case against Rabusa was set aside last year because of "legal technicalities" but would be revived "anytime now."

The documents showed that Rabusa had a P10-million savings deposit with the AFP Savings and Loans Association Inc.; houses in Sta. Ana, Manila, in Better Living, Parañaque, and at the AFP Officers' Village Association Incorporated (AFPOVAI) in Fort Bonifacio, Makati; and seven vehicles registered under his name, his wife Debbie's name, and those of other relatives.

Rabusa, however, had a gross monthly income of only P26,639.88. With deductions, he only received about P5,000, according to his pay slips that were submitted to the Ombudsman.

According to his service record, Rabusa was assigned to J6 on Nov. 4, 1999. He was relieved from J6 in 2002 and assigned commander of the 43rd Infantry Battalion in Samar in the same year.

He is currently chief of operations of the Central Command based in Cebu City.

In 1997, Rabusa filed a net worth

COLONEL/ A4

Blind Baguio kids see bright future in music

By Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—They are blind, but they can see the future. They will learn to read and write and play musical instruments; they will form a *rondalla* and perform in a big hall to raise funds with which they can help other blind children.

Yes, they are children, too, aged 6 to 14. All 35 of them are wards of the Northern Luzon Association for the Blind and come from poor families. But just as they are unfazed by their disability, they are determined not to let poverty keep them away from their dream.

So where do they get the piano, guitars and *bandurias*? Enter Children's Hour, a fund-raising campaign group that calls on individuals and companies to donate the equivalent of one hour of their earnings to support programs for needy Filipino children.

Playing Santa Claus to NLAB 12 weeks before Christmas, Children's Hour turned over P20,000 on Friday, first day of the nationwide Children's Month celebration. The whole

BLIND BAGUIO/ A5

Palace mad at Piatco: Are they hiding something?

ROGER MARGALLO

WHAT are they hiding inside the cavernous, world-class interiors of Naia 3? The Palace is puzzled why its top officials were denied entry on Tuesday. Mothballed for more than a year and a half, the airport terminal is reported to be fully operational.

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendaño and Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S sovereignty was subverted when Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) turned away a six-member government team set to inspect the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 3 on Tuesday, Malacañang said yesterday.

"We will not allow anybody to subvert the sovereignty of the Philippines," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing.

Under the country's laws, the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) has oversight power over all airport-related facilities, said Bunye, who was part of the government team that Piatco denied entry to Naia 3.

Other members of the team included Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza and MIAA General Manager Alfonso Cusi.

Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo was very "disappointed" by Piatco's decision to "unreasonably" bar her men from inspecting the idle passenger terminal.

He said that Ms Arroyo was bent on opening Naia 3 and that she was exploring all options—legal, diplomatic and commercial.

"They must be hiding something that they don't want us to see," Bunye said, referring to

PALACE MAD/ A6

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Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Visayas and Southern Luzon particularly Palawan and Mindoro provinces and Bicol region.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/07/04

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Widespread Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Widespread Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

GMA heads for Vietnam for summit

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo flies to Vietnam this morning to join 38 other leaders from the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the fifth Asia-Europe Meeting.

"This is a powerhouse summit where East meets West in an economic partnership that has been drawn tighter over the years," Ms Arroyo said of her three-day trip to Hanoi.

She is scheduled to leave on a 9:10 a.m. Philippine Airlines flight. Her lean delegation includes Secretaries Alberto Romulo (foreign), Cesar Purisima (trade) and Ignacio Bunye (press), Philippine Ambassador to Vietnam Victoriano Lecaros and Foreign Undersecretary Sonia Brady. First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo is not included in the trip.

Bunye said the landmark Asem 5 summit will bring together for the first time the 25-member countries of the EU, the 10 Asean members that include the Philippines, and Asean's three partners, China, Japan and South Korea.

Bunye said the President's attendance to the Asem, held every two years, would be an occasion to promote cooperation with the EU in the fields of trade, tourism, security, environment protection and international migration.

The meeting has the theme: Further revitalizing and substantiating the Asia-Europe Partnership.

Ms Arroyo said the Asem 5 was an opportunity to inform the European governments about the "advanced stage" of the peace process in Mindanao.

She said the EU was the country's third largest export market absorbing 16.6 percent of exports.

'TOKEN SURRENDER'

Abra gov, 11 mayors give up 23 firearms

VALERA

By Christian V. Esguerra

ELEVEN mayors of Abra as well as the provincial governor have turned over firearms to authorities in what the Philippine National Police termed a "token surrender."

The 23 pistols and high-powered guns they turned over to Task Force Abra on Tuesday were nowhere near the number expected to be collected by Friday, the deadline set by PNP Director General Edgardo Aglipay. But the cache brought to 31 the number of loose firearms that Abra politicians have surrendered to the PNP in compliance with its campaign to dismantle all private armies there.

"We believe there are many more loose firearms out there. It was a token surrender," Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson, told the INQUIRER.

He said the PNP would now apply for warrants for the planned searches and raids to be conducted by the task force.

Gov. Vicente Valera initiated the token surrender, turning over a total of eight firearms: two M-16 rifles, a baby Armalite, an FN rifle, a 12-gauge shotgun and three pistols.

The mayors who followed the governor's lead were Cecilia Luna, Ysrael Bernos, Antonio Domes-ag, Mailed Molina, Roland Somera, Elizalde Pacsa, Arnulfo Bisares, Lizardo Sinugo Jr., Rodolfo Bernardez, Rogelio Elvena, and Medel Taverner.

According to a PNP report shown the INQUIRER before the May elections, one of the mayors maintained a private army believed responsible for the killing of at least two of his political rivals.

Elvena turned over the biggest number of unlicensed firearms—two 12-gauge shotguns, two .38 cal. revolvers, and a .45-cal. pistol. Molina surrendered only a Garrand rifle.

Earlier, the task force headed by Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, director of the Cordillera Administrative Region, confiscated 38 firearms, including an M-203 grenade launcher. It also seized 54 vehicles with no license plates.

Aglipay had ordered the dismantling of private armies in Abra in response to an INQUIRER report on the worsening crime situation there.

He immediately canceled the firearm permits of all Abra residents and sacked at least 61 policemen moonlighting as bodyguards for politicians.

Abra is now under the watch of the Special Action Force, the elite anti-terrorism, anti-insurgency and special warfare unit of the PNP.

Erap defense self-destructing, says prosecutor

THE GOVERNMENT'S chief prosecutor in the plunder trial of ousted President Estrada yesterday declared that Estrada's defense was "self-destructing" as a fourth defense witness yesterday failed to challenge the credibility of the state's star witness, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said he did not need to demolish Estrada's defense as the defense lawyers were already doing it for him.

On cross-examination by Villa-Ignacio, Elvira Felix, a former state auditor of the Commission on Audit, admitted that she had no direct knowledge of the veracity of the COA reports showing Singson to have hundreds of millions of pesos in allegedly unliquidated cash advances.

Felix also admitted that the annual audit reports for 1999, 2000, and 2001 of Ilocos Sur showed the provincial government under Singson to have "consistently" initiated efforts to comply with COA rules.

The defense lawyers had presented the audit reports as showing that Singson, while still governor, had accumulated "unsettled cash advances" running into several million pesos over several years.

Singson, a longtime friend and associate of Estrada, precipitated the impeachment and eventual ouster of Estrada when he denounced the disgraced leader as having allegedly accepted illegal gambling bribes and stolen government funds.

Asked why in spite of the allegedly negative findings on Singson and his provincial officials, the COA did not recommend their prosecution, Felix replied: "I don't know because I was not the one who prepared the report."

She gave the same answer concerning the 1999, 2000 and 2001 annual audit reports that lead defense counsel Rene Saguisag earlier said showed Singson to have allegedly committed financial irregularities.

Coming to Felix's defense, defense counsel Raymond Fortun said Felix "would not have [the] competence" to answer Villa-Ignacio's questions because she was not the "team leader" of the group that prepared the COA reports.

There was an audible murmur in the courtroom as Fortun appeared to have played into the argument of the prosecution that Felix had no knowledge about the veracity of the audit reports as she merely "edited" the text and reviewed the "computations." *Armand N. Nocum*

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Chavit: No regrets, no pity for Erap

By Armand N. Nocum

ILOCOS Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said he has no regrets putting his former mahjong pal, ex-President Joseph Estrada, in detention—or, to be more accurate, in rest house arrest.

"Pity him? Why should I? He lives like a king," Singson said of his former buddy who is detained in a 15-hectare vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal.

Estrada, 67, faces plunder and perjury charges. He was ousted more than three years ago amid charges of allegedly amassing P4.1 billion in ill-gotten wealth.

About P130 million of this amount reportedly came from kickbacks from the tobacco excise tax.

It was Singson who blew the whistle on Estrada's commissions from tobacco and 'jueteng' (an illegal numbers game) which triggered the failed impeachment proceedings against the former President.

Estrada was eventually ousted in January 2001 and was arrested three months later.

In a lunch-cum-press briefing with Sandiganbayan reporters, Singson admitted that he missed his friend, whom he first met 40 years ago when Estrada was an actor and a producer.

"I miss playing mahjong with him," Singson confessed when asked what he missed most about his ex-buddy.

Singson was allegedly a member of Estrada's "midnight Cabinet," a select group of friends who played mahjong, womanized and got drunk with the former leader from evening till dawn.

When told that Estrada claimed to have "zero sex life" while in detention, Singson, known to have the same passion for women as the ex-President, exclaimed: "That's impossible!"

Singson said he was not ruling out a possible reconciliation with Estrada.

"I have no problem with that. I don't feel guilty because I only went against him when he ordered to have me killed," he said.

Asked if he was still involved in jueteng, which persists long after the ouster of President Estrada, Singson said he was "totally out of of it. *Masyadong mainit* (It's too hot). I have other problems to deal with," he said.

He said he favored jueteng's legalization only if the government had done everything it could to stop it.

He denied having any knowledge of big-time jueteng operations or their police and government protectors that Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz plans to name publicly.

"Archbishop Cruz must be sure about his evidence against these jueteng lords," said Singson, who allegedly is the biggest of them all.

BIR to go after cell phone sellers

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Michelle Remo

UNDER pressure to raise revenue collections in the face of a fiscal crisis, the Bureau of Internal Revenue is training its guns on the P100-billion-a-year telecommunications industry in its reinvigorated campaign to go after big-time tax evaders.

"The biggest leakage in the revenue collection nowadays is in the telecommunications industry," said BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr.

He said the BIR is targeting cell phone dealers and retailers who have billions of pesos worth of unpaid taxes for prosecution.

He said mobile phone providers Smart and Globe helped the agency come up with a short list of these firms.

Short list

"The mobile phone firms helped us track down the sales of handsets and call cards which enabled us to make an estimate of how much their dealers and retailers made in the past few years. We are still coordinating with the DOJ (Department of Justice) on how to proceed with our tax evasion cases," Parayno said.

Parayno said one of the firms being eyed for back taxes was Cellpage, owned by Jimmy Gaw and Evercito Manansala, which allegedly has P4 billion in undeclared income.

Parayno said the BIR has the names of almost a dozen other cell phone dealers and retailers that have undeclared income comparable to that of Cellpage.

"We have to work closely with the telecom companies because it is very easy to evade taxes here specially with the *pasa* load which is very difficult to track without the cooperation of cell phone companies," Parayno said.

The majority of cell phone users in the country are prepaid subscribers who buy their call minutes either through cards or electronic loads for as little P1.

The BIR has reconstituted the Task Force on Tax Evasion Cases and has renewed its ties with the National Security Council to speed up the chase for more than 300 tax-dodging individuals and corporations.

Yesterday, the BIR filed tax evasion cases against nine companies located in the Calabarzon region.

Leading the pack is the Batangas-Laguna-Tayabas Bus Co. which was charged for P81.3 million worth of unpaid taxes.

The others were: Silver City Trading Corp., Process Technologies Inc., Cubit Construction & Development Corp., M-Green Products International, Jomancel Marketing, Homeowners Photocenter, MC Silva Enterprises, and St. Peter Security and General Services.

The BIR also charged two individuals, Maribena Mercado and Susan Pagcaliwagan.

Parayno, who led the filing of the charges yesterday at the Biñan fiscal's office, said the BIR was able to detect the tax delinquency through the use of its recently adopted computerized auditing system called Relief (Reconciliation of Listings for Enforcement).

Under this system, the BIR checks the sales and income declarations of taxpayers against the amount of purchases declared by their clients.

"At the outset, our position was very clear: we will run after tax-dodgers and we will pursue this to the very end. Let me remind them that we have the technology to ensure this," said Parayno in a statement.

The BIR said five of the seven companies were found to have grossly under-declared or not to have declared at all their value-added tax obligations.

Delinquent taxpayers

The two remaining companies and two individuals were delinquent taxpayers who failed to respond to the agency's notice of final assessments for them to settle their tax liabilities. Charges filed based on the BIR's final assessment are criminal in nature.

Once the fiscal's office finds probable cause, the charges will be brought to the Court of Tax Appeals.

The respondents face heavy fines and imprisonment in addition to the closure of their businesses, the BIR said.

Since the BIR adopted the new auditing technology, it was able to detect discrepancies in income and tax liability declarations, especially of corporate taxpayers.

The BIR earlier filed similar charges against several companies, most of which were dealers of telecommunication products.

Solon says GMA now part of GSIS problem

BY REFUSING to let go of Winston Garcia, the controversial president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System, President Macapagal-Arroyo has become as much of a problem for the GSIS as Garcia, a party-list group representative claimed yesterday.

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran warned that the President's insistence on giving the beleaguered Garcia the benefit of the doubt would bring down the anger of protesters on both their heads.

He said if the GSIS were to collapse, the President would have to answer to the people for protecting Garcia who has been accused of mismanaging and mishandling the funds of the state-run pension fund.

"President Arroyo is now the problem at the GSIS. Garcia's infamy is already well-established, and the grounds for his immediate sacking are very firm. Why is President Arroyo protecting Garcia?" asked Beltran.

Beltran said all public officials should be replaced if the public call for their removal is strong. In the case of Garcia, he said it was not just House representatives and GSIS employees who are demanding his ouster but also hundreds of thousands of state employees who have been unable to access their GSIS benefits.

He said Garcia's approval and implementation of various allegedly irregular GSIS board decisions and transactions probably had the approval of the President.

He urged Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo not to waste time in acting on the graft charges which Beltran has filed against Garcia.

He said that Marcelo should also throw the book at Garcia for seriously undermining the welfare of state employees.

A press statement from the GSIS employees union yesterday said a joint executive and legislative assembly had resolved to dismiss Albert Velasco as the union's president for leading protest demonstrations against Garcia allegedly without the union's authority.

Robert Ibasco, spokesperson of the Kapisanan ng mga Manggagawa ng GSIS (KMG), said Velasco's action was not covered by a formal resolution of majority of the members of the joint assembly.

The joint assembly, which is said to be the policymaking body of the GSIS employees' union, is made up of district representatives in the home office and chapter presidents in GSIS field offices.

Velasco and the joint assembly both claim to have the support of majority of GSIS employees in taking opposite sides in the controversy surrounding Garcia.

A separate resolution authorized incumbent union vice president Joseph Fellazar to assume the duties of union president and to negotiate with the GSIS management on certain policies affecting the rank and file.

At the House of Representatives, the Garcia controversy has also split the Remulla brothers who represent two congressional districts in Cavite.

Neophyte Rep. Crispin "Boying" Remulla, 43, has taken the side of Garcia while his younger brother, second-termer Rep. Gilbert Remulla, 34, is pushing for an investigation into the alleged anomalies in the GSIS.

"It's no sibling rivalry. It's just a difference of views," Gilbert said in a phone interview.

He said that he and Crispin have "occasional differences of opinion" but they have a lot more in common. Both belong to the Nacionalista Party and are in the opposition bloc in the House.

Crispin said that he is filing a resolution calling for a House investigation into the reinsurance contracts of the National Power Corp. following Garcia's allegation that an alleged syndicate of private insurance companies, which had previously benefited from Napocor's insurance business, was behind moves to oust Garcia.

Gilbert said he decided to co-sponsor the resolution calling for a probe as he claims to have received reports of mismanagement of GSIS funds and these "merit an investigation."

Cynthia D. Balana, Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora

DOJ may cancel passport of suspected Cebu drug lord

By Philip C. Tubeza

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said the government was studying whether it should cancel the passport of suspected drug lord Calvin de Jesus Tan so he could be deported back to the country after his arrest in Hong Kong last week.

"We want to get first crack in his case," Gonzalez said.

He would be conferring with Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno on the possibility of asking the courts to cancel Tan's passport.

Tan, 29, a Chinese-Filipino who holds a Philippine passport, was arrested by customs officers in Hong Kong last Friday at a ferry terminal bound for Macau. Seized from him were $820,000 worth of cash as well as a small amount of shabu and cocaine.

Tan has been tagged as the financier of three drug laboratories in Mandaue City where 675 kilos of shabu worth P1.3 billion were confiscated by anti-narcotics agents on Sept. 24. During the raid, the police also arrested 11 men, eight of whom were foreigners.

While the Philippines and Hong Kong have an extradition treaty, the chances of Tan being extradited soon was slim because he is still facing drug charges in Hong Kong.

Gonzalez said he had talked with Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin about the possibility of negotiating directly with Hong Kong authorities for Tan's immediate repatriation.

He said Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco had gone to Hong Kong to see if officials there were willing to give him up. .

The justice secretary also ordered Mandaue Mayor Thadeo Ouano and other city officials to explain why they were not able to detect the presence of the drug laboratories in their city.

He had written the mayor, city engineer, treasurer, health officer and assessor, giving them seven days to explain their side.

Gonzalez also received reports that the arrested suspects had "some influence" in the city. Because of this, he considered transferring the preliminary investigation of the case to Manila.

However, Cuenco and the Cebu chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines opposed the transfer.

Gonzalez said he had formed a special prosecution team to conduct the preliminary investigation in Mandaue.

The police have charged Tan with the Comprehensive Dangerous Drug Act of 2002 before the Mandaue City Regional Trial Court while the 11 arrested suspects have been charged with the illegal manufacture of shabu.

Negros execs honor Rio

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Occidental officials continue to mourn the loss of their beloved daughter Rio Diaz-Cojuangco who passed away on Monday following a six-year battle with cancer.

The provincial board yesterday passed a resolution citing Rio for her work as vice mayor of Pontevedra town and as president of the Vice Mayors' League-Negros Occidental. It also extended condolences to her family.

"As a public servant, she implemented programs and projects geared toward the welfare and benefit of her constituents particularly for women, children and the family sector," the resolution said.

Through her initiative, numerous surgical, medical and dental missions for poor residents were held in the fourth district of Negros Occidental.

"Her demise evoked a feeling of sadness and great loss not only in her constituents but also in the people whose lives she touched," the resolution said.

Rio was elected vice mayor of Pontevedra in 1998 when her husband Carlos "Charlie" Cojuangco first won as congressman of the province's fourth district. She also became president of the vice mayor's league in Negros Occidental.

In December that year, Rio was diagnosed to have cancer in the colon. She was brought to the United States for treatment and was declared "cured" in April 1999. She came home in July that year and publicly spoke about her miraculous healing.

She returned to the US for treatment in 2001, after the cancer had spread to her blood cells. She had been in and out of the hospital since.

Last Monday, she died at Seton Medical Center in Daly City, California. Her remains were cremated in San Francisco, California the next day.

Charlie will arrive in Manila on Sunday with Rio's ashes. A service will be held at the Christ's Commission Fellowship in Manila the following day.

On Tuesday, her ashes will be brought to the St. Michael's Church in Pontevedra, about 48 km south from here. The ashes will be placed in a crypt at the Cojuangco family chapel in Hacienda Balbina, Pontevedra.

Pontevedra Mayor Jose Benito Alonso said municipal and barangay officials of their town would wait at the Bacolod airport for the arrival of her ashes which they would escort back to Pontevedra.

"We are saddened by her death but happy that her suffering has ended," said Alonso.

"She was a public official who was full of life. Had she lived, she could have done a lot more for the people," he said.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon said Rio was a caring, kind-hearted and good person.

"I believe her close relationship with God helped her endure the pain she went through in her six-year battle with cancer," he said.

Rep. Jose Carlos Lacson (Neg. Occ., 3rd district) said he was in awe of Rio's Christian values and deep faith in God.

Lacson said Rio was a good mother and wife. "I rejoice that she is now with the Lord."

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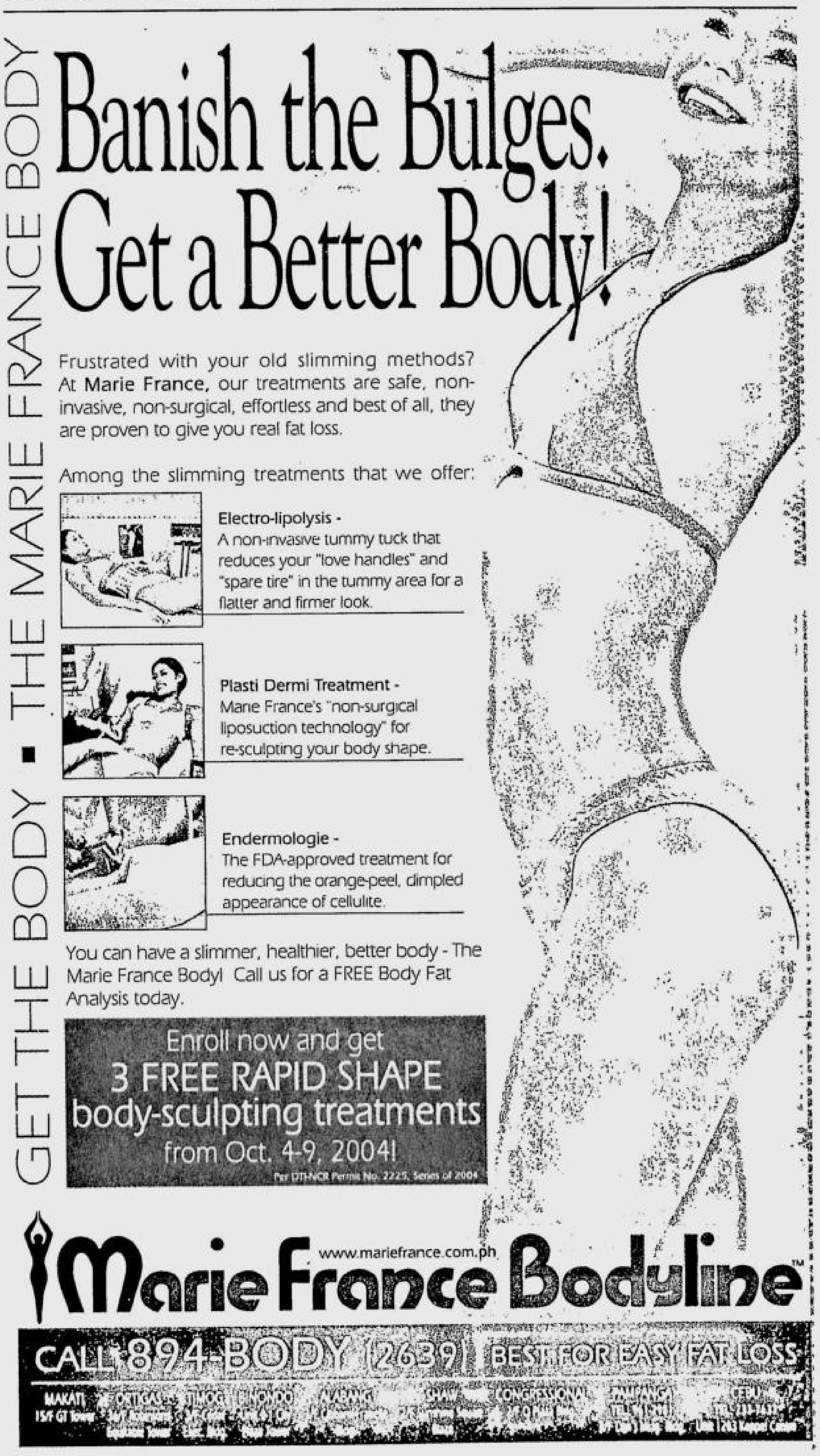

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Colonel probed over ₱50-M fortune

From page A1

of P1.2 million—a slight increase from his P1.1 million net worth in 1996. He also declared a total annual income of a little below P600,000 from his salary and his wife's income from a buy-and-sell business.

The documents submitted to the Ombudsman said Rabusa's statements of assets and liabilities from 1998 to 2001 were "missing" from the files in Camp Aguinaldo.

But by April 17, 2002, Rabusa had total capital contributions or savings of P3,542,730.44 under AFPSLAI Account No. 610-010187742-7, while his wife had P7 million under AFPSLAI Account No. 630-01-409084-3, according to the documents.

At about the same time, Rabusa moved his family from his condominium unit at the Philippine Army Officers Village (PAOVil) to newly built three-story house at Lot 3, Sub-block 7, Block 89 in AFPOVAI, the documents also showed.

His neighbors at PAOVil confirmed the transfer.

The documents said Rabusa and his wife were using at least seven vehicles, including a White Hyundai Starex van, a 2002 Isuzu Trooper registered in his wife's name, a green Toyota Revo, a 1998 Mitsubishi Lancer, a Toyota 4-Runner Jeep Wagon, a Honda Accord and a Honda Civic.

Deal with him

The same documents were sent to the then AFP chief of staff, the office of the Philippine Army commanding general, the Office of the Inspectorate General and the Office of Ethical Standards and Public Accountability as early as mid-2002.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson said she wanted the AFP to deal decisively with the case of Garcia, who is suspected of amassing illegal wealth from kickbacks in military contracts.

"We only have to look at the several military uprisings in the past to remind ourselves that we should never again give our soldiers reason to take up arms against the government," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday in a statement.

"Our commitment to a clean, professional AFP is unsullied and the President stands foursquare behind the entire command in the pursuit of justice, professionalism and integrity," Bunye said.

"There has been no let-up in our efforts in this direction and the President supports the decisive measures taken by the Chief of Staff on this specific case," he added.

Ms Arroyo threw her support behind the suspension of Garcia, whom the Ombudsman has charged with dishonesty, gross misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the interest of the service.

One of Garcia's sons was recently held at the San Francisco airport in the United States for failing to declare $100,000 he was carrying.

The general's wife told US customs officials that Garcia received travel money and expenses in excess of thousands of dollars from European and Asian companies that had been awarded contracts for military hardware, as well as "gratitude money" from Philippine companies that were awarded military contracts to build roads, bridges and military housing.

Garcia reportedly owned a condo and a house in the United States—assets that the Ombudsman found to be disproportionate to his monthly salary of P36,015.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said other senior officials were being investigated for possible graft offenses.

P50M a year

Retired Comm. Rex Robles said the Feliciano Commission, of which he is a member, had discovered that a retired military official stashed away at least P50 million a year during his time as an active official of the AFP.

Robles, a former member of the Reform the AFP Movement, told reporters that the commission made the discovery in the course of its inquiry into the roots of last year's Oakwood mutiny.

He said the information was included in the confidential portion of the commission's report to Ms Arroyo.

"Our study that we released has one example [of an official] who set aside at least P50 million a year as a general. This study was part of the confidential portion of our study," Robles said in Filipino.

Now isolated case

He said this case was currently under investigation.

Robles said the general in question was "collecting P1 million a month already" and had started to collect an additional P800,000 a week.

"So P3.2 million plus P1 million is P4.2 million. So for one year, his minimum cash was P50 million," Robles said.

He also said that the case of Garcia was not an isolated one.

"We have other documented cases that cannot be released. There will be more that will come out. Just watch for it." *With reports from Alcuin Papa and* Juliet Labog-Javellana

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, an Entertainment story on Page A2-1—"Rio planned 'everything'"—misstated that Rio Diaz died at Seaton Hospital. Diaz died at Daly City's Seton Medical Center, which is named in honor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton who founded the Daughters of Charity in America.

* * *

THE SAME story misstated that Rio Diaz's husband, Charlie Cojuangco, was a former representative of Negros Occidental. Cojuangco is the incumbent representative of the fourth congressional district of Negros Occidental. He is serving his third term.

* * *

THE SAME story misstated that Rio Diaz was crowned Mutya ng Pilipinas in 1976. Rio Diaz won the title of Mutya ng Pilipinas-Asia in 1977.

* * *

IN THE Sept. 20 issue, the editorial on Page A14—"Pay cuts"—misstated that President Macapagal-Arroyo issued in June 2001 Executive Order No. 20 which set a cap of P100,000 on the monthly salaries of GOCC executives. What Ms Arroyo issued on June 25, 2001 was Memorandum Order No, 20 which suspended increases in the salaries and benefits of top GOCC executives.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

Fil-Am 'Idol' rouses 'Jasmania' in Manila

From page A1

Trias finished third in the contest. She was one of two Filipinos who made it to the top 10. Eighteen-year-old Camille Velasco, the other Pinay, is also from Hawaii. African-American Fantasia Barrino won the title in a one-on-one with runner-up Diana DeGarmo, 16, the youngest finalist along with Trias.

Familiar face

Since the AI finals in May, Trias' commercials endorsing a hamburger chain, a phone company and a clothes company have been aired on local television. A giant billboard bearing her face is seen by hundreds of thousands of Metro Manila commuters every day.

During a press conference at the Mandarin Hotel two hours after her arrival, Trias said she did not even remember the best and worst comments she got from the panel of judges during the whole length of the competition.

"The best comment was probably a positive one and the worst comment was probably a negative one," she said.

Of news that AI organizers were planning to raise the minimum age of contestants from 16 to 18, Trias said: "I don't think it matters how old you are. I think age is just a number. It's the state of mind that you're in [that counts]."

She herself was just 16 when the contest started. She turns 18 on Nov. 3.

Singing is a passion

To survive the rigors of the competition, Trias said she held on to positive thoughts. "There was a lot of pressure but I kept my eyes on the dream. I kept telling myself I could do it."

Thousands joined the auditions conducted all over the United States. To this day, Trias believes talent was not the biggest factor in winning AI. "It's the whole package, the x-factor, your personality," she said. "You just have to be yourself."

The single-mindedness paid off, too. "Singing is a passion of mine. I was very determined," she added. "If you have that determination and that passion, then nothing can get in your way."

Back to her roots

Trias' 10-day visit will bring her to Tanza, Cavite, hometown of her father, Rudy Trias Jr. They are descendants of Gen. Mariano Trias, after whom another town in the province was named.

On Monday, the singing champ will meet most of her relatives and townmates for the first time. A motorcade from Bacoor to Tanza starts at 3 p.m. One hour later, she will pay a courtesy call on Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi at the Arayata Sports Center.

Oct. 16, Araneta Coliseum

A performance at the Araneta Coliseum is set on Oct. 16, with other Filipino talents Jay-R, Christian Bautista and Erik Santos.

She loves Filipino food, she said—"*dinuguan, sinigang na hipon, adobo* and beef steak."

She loves Filipinos, too. "They are very, very supportive," she said, recalling how text messages from Filipinos all over the United States helped her stay in the competition. And yesterday, stepping out of the plane, she saw yet another expression of Pinoy support. Fans who had waited since early morning for her arrival were screaming and chanting her name.

"Wow," Trias said. "That was a whole paparazzi frenzy. There were so many cameras in my face."

But living in the Philippines is not in her immediate plans. "Home for me is Hawaii," Trias said. I love that place. I could probably be based there, and just commute back and forth—to Manila, or LA [California]. Home will always be Hawaii, and elsewhere is just work." *With a report from AP*

Manifesto of Support for

ADMINISTRATOR JAMES C. LEDESMA

SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION

from

Panay Federation of Sugarcane Farmers, Inc.
PASSI (Iloilo) Sugar Central, Inc.
Capiz Sugar Central, Inc.

Panay Federation of Sugarcane Farmers, Inc. (PANAYFED), the umbrella organization of fourteen (14) strong sugarcane farmers association in Panay Island, Passi (Iloilo) Sugar Central, Inc. and Capiz Sugar Central, Inc. recognize the initiatives undertaken by SRA Administrator James C. Ledesma which include the following:

- Strengthening of the Mill District Development Councils (MDDC), resulting in increased productivity and production efficiency of sugarcane farmers;
- Successful implementation of Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF) programs focused on helping sugarcane farmers;
- Successful SRA administration resulting in increased domestic sugar production (1.6 Million metric tons to 2.34 Million metric tons at present); thus, reversing the country's sugar supply situation from net importer to world exporter;
- Implementation of Executive Order No. 295 issued by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo resulting in the reduction of the importation of pre-mix products with high sugar content; enabling the government to collect more revenues from correct tariff assessment;
- Supporting pro-farmer initiatives, such as the assistance given for the importation of much needed fertilizers at low costs.

Panay Federation of Sugarcane Farmers, Inc., Passi (Iloilo) Sugar Central, Inc. and Capiz Sugar Central, Inc. commend Administrator James C. Ledesma for his integrity and competence as Administrator of the Sugar Regulatory Administration.

FRANCIS PEREZ TREÑAS
President
Panay Federation of Sugarcane Farmers, Inc.

TIMOTEO Y. CONSING
President
Passi (Iloilo) Sugar Central, Inc.

TERENCE S. UYGONGCO
Vice-President / Resident General Manager
Capiz Sugar Central, Inc.

BON ENG TE
Asturias Sugarcane Planters' Association, Inc.

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DULCE P. BLAS
Panayfed Rep. to SIFI

EFRAIN V. BALDAGO
Northern Iloilo Sugar Planters' Association Inc.

SUGAR IS A BRAIN FOOD

Man finds perfect wife …

From page A1

began—he remarried wife No. 1.

"I am not a playboy. I just love seeing beautiful women," Kamaruddin Mohammed, 72, was quoted as saying by the New Straits Times newspaper.

Kamaruddin's latest bride, now 74, was also the first woman he married and divorced.

In between marrying Khadijah Udin in 1957 and again on Sunday, the "friendly and easy going charmer" married 51 times. Divorce is relatively easy to obtain among the Muslim majority in Malaysia. A man can end a marriage by simply saying "I divorce you" to his wife.

Kamaruddin's ex-wives included an Englishwoman and a Thai. The Times said Kamaruddin had stayed with the Thai the longest—for 20 years. His shortest marriage lasted two days.

All of Kamaruddin's previous marriages ended in divorce except with the Thai woman, who died of cancer.

"After she died, I thought of Khadijah and sent several people to inquire. I didn't expect her to accept it," said Kamaruddin, who had worked for several multinational companies before retiring in 1992.

Despite all the repeat marriages, Kamaruddin insisted that he was a one-woman man.

"If I like a girl, I'll ask for her hand in marriage. I don't like flings. I also don't believe in marrying more than one woman at a time," he told the Times.

Celebrity

Kamaruddin, a former policeman who hails from the northeastern state of Kelantan, became a national celebrity of sorts when he remarried Khadijah.

Kamaruddin said he was very happy to be reunited with Khadijah whom he married the first time in 1957. He divorced her a year later after she bore him a daughter, who is now 47. He is believed to have fathered at least seven children.

Khadijah told the Times that she accepted Kamaruddin's marriage offer because she was now living alone after the death of her third husband.

"Kamaruddin also promised to look after me until the end of our lives and said he did not want to continue his habit of remarrying repeatedly," she said.

As in his marriages, Kamaruddin could not stick to a job. After a stint with the police when he left school in the 1950s, he held various jobs in the private sector until his retirement in 1992.

From job to job

"I just moved from one job to another if there were better offers. There have been so many jobs, maybe as many as my marriages," he said.

Sujatha Nair, a staff member with the popular Malaysia Book of Records, said her company did not have any records of marriage feats.

"It is not in the records. We don't have such details. We feel it is difficult to verify," she told AFP.

Setting world and national records is a popular obsession in Malaysia, which once boasted the world's tallest buildings, the Petronas Twin Towers.

Last month, a Malaysian woman overcame 17 scorpion bites to set a new world record by spending 36 days in a glass cage with 6,069 of the poisonous arachnids. *Reports from AP and AFP*

Let the little childr

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

CHRISTMAS comes early for the 35 blind children of the Northern Luzon Association for the Blind who dreamed of staging a fund-raising concert to help other blind children. Enter Bienvenido Tan (at left) of the Children's Hour who turns over a check to make their dream come true. Here they serenade their benefactor in Baguio City.

Blind Baguio kids see bright future in music

From page A1

amount was from a single Baguio donor who had been touched by the NLAB kids' presentation during the CH launch here in March.

It was a simple ceremony. Led by their teachers and NLAB volunteers, the children cheered when Ambassador Bienvenido Tan Jr., representing three CH benefactors, and Rhea Alarcon, CH assistant executive director, handed the check to Digna Rosario, NLAB executive director.

Looking forward

And then the future concert artists serenaded their benefactors with a song, "You Raise Me Up."

Jonathan Panlilio, 13, who has been learning to read and write in Braille for three years now, said he looked forward to playing the piano before a huge crowd at the planned special performance.

Meanwhile, he has learned to sew, and wants to be a masseur, too, so he could help his parents. "I can do a lot of things," said Jonathan, who is from Pangasinan. "I want to earn my own money."

Seven-year-old Ariel Soriano, one of the youngest in the group, was very excited about the prospect of joining a *rondalla*. He has other dreams as well: "I want to be a teacher someday," he said, smiling. Ariel is from Solano, Cagayan.

More than a gift

NLAB is a charitable institution that educates blind children and trains them in livelihood programs so they can be productive members of society.

"These children come here with nothing—they don't even know how to read or write," said Rosario, executive director. "But we make sure that when they leave, they are efficient and ready to be accepted in public or private schools."

On the same day, CH turned over a much bigger check to the Baguio Center for Young Adults Inc., whose wards need more than a gift of music.

Marlene de Castro, BCYA executive director, said the money—P254,550 from various agencies and individuals in Baguio—would be used to educate and train young people who have been through traumatic experiences.

Among the programs it will support is the Adolescent Reproductive Health Life Planning for Children in Conflict with the Law. This program's beneficiaries include children who are in jail, and those who have suffered physical and sexual abuse.

Powerful allies

De Castro said these teenagers needed counseling before anything else, but that they could be developed as leaders for their peers and models for their communities.

At the NLAB program, Tan recalled that CH, which he had worked with since 1999, donated medical equipment—suction machines, nebulizers, blood pressure apparatus—to the Baguio General Hospital five years ago. He said the equipment had since benefited at least 100 young patients every month.

More support

"Children's Hour is aware of the needs of disadvantaged and exploited children," Tan said. He announced that even more support had poured in from professionals, workers and businessmen who wished to promote children's rights and welfare.

He said CH's latest batch of allies were from the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines, which held its 41st annual convention at Camp John Hay that day.

Tan, INQUIRER president and CH trustee Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, and CH executive director Evangeline Mayuga signed a memorandum of agreement with the PMAP community relations committee during the convention. At least 45 member-companies pledged support for CH projects.

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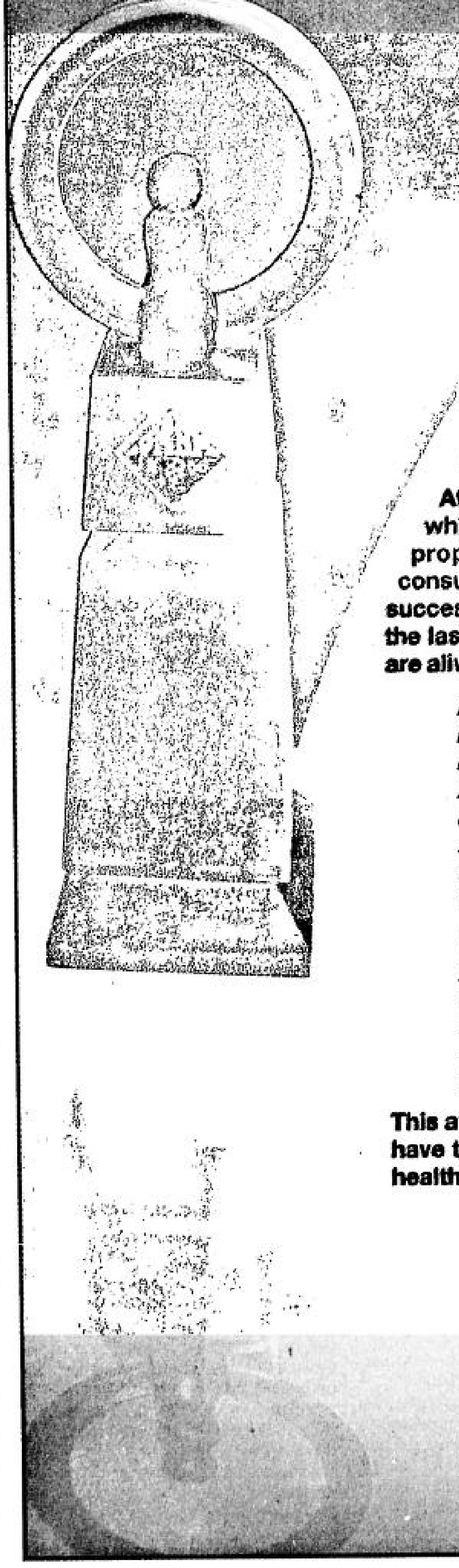

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₱1,200 food subsidy for poor planned

From page A1

people—the real Church, meaning all Catholics, not just priests and bishops. It's the same as asking how Filipinos can help in the solution," he said.

A third of what's required

Yangco said that based on DSWD computations, a food coupon worth about P1,200 would be given to each poor family as food subsidy per month.

"That represents one-third of the required nutrition intake of a family of six. According to nutritionists, you will not die if you have at least one-third of the required nutritional intake," she said.

The food is not limited to rice and canned goods. "In fact," she said, "we want to contribute to the vibrancy of the economy in an area so that its local produce can be used for the purpose. We don't have to get from Manila."

Yangco said the amount could be higher depending cn the circumstances: "If a family has babies that require milk and the mother is not lactating, we have to provide milk—and milk is quite expensive."

The whole undertaking is expected to cost the government billions of pesos.

"If you have this number of five million families at P1,200 per month, we would need about P6 billion per month. But we don't treat this as universal," Yangco said.

She said the "augmentation" would be on a "need basis" per family, conducted in a manner that would not promote the dole-out mentality.

"People might flock to us because they heard we were going to give away groceries," Yangco said. "Excuse me, we don't have that much resources, and we're not encouraging ... dependency. We have to help according to how it is needed by the family."

Philhealth cardholders

Health cards could be the initial target of the coupon system.

"If there are Philhealth cardholders who are at the same time suffering from hunger, they can use that access card or coupon for that purpose," she said.

Yangco said the budget would come from the disaster funds of the national government and from the sources of the NAPC. She said the DSWD and the NAPC were also tapping the help of the business community.

Yangco said they would start from the P350-million disaster fund. She did not say where the bulk of the monthly requirement would come from.

"Before the month ends we would hopefully have [the system in place]. But it doesn't mean we are not giving food to the hungry because all they have to do is to go the nearest local DSWD office and they will be given help," she said.

But Renato Reyes, spokesperson of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, described the scheme as "a very big insult."

"Aside from dignity, the people need long-term solutions—lower prices of basic commodities and services such as electricity, anything that will increase their purchasing power," Reyes said.

He said debt servicing and military spending were draining the national budget when the government's resources should be spent for more efficient social services.

'Gimmick'

Five opposition lawmakers also scoffed at Malacañang's "publicity gimmick."

Rep. Rozanno Rufino Biazon, (LP, Muntinlupa) said the coupon system was a "band-aid solution to a sickness that needs surgery" or a long-term program.

"Unfortunately, up to now, there's still no population management policy..." he said. "Worse, this food coupon program will promote mendicancy and will be a logistics delivery nightmare."

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said that while the system was not an entirely bad idea, it could, like dole-outs, "only go so far."

"What groceries would the coupons cover? A can or two of sardines, two packets of instant noodles, half-kilo bags of sugar, coffee and milk? These are hardly enough to sustain families," he said.

Beltran said that instead of distributing food coupons, Malacañang should scrap its tax schemes and rethink its position on the privatization and liberalization of vital industries.

Social volcano

Rep. Rafael Mariano, also of Anakpawis, said the coupons would not serve to quell the upcoming mass actions against worsening poverty, hunger and mass unemployment.

He said hunger was a "social volcano" that would erupt anytime unless immediately addressed.

He said that on Oct. 16, or World Food Day, peasant groups nationwide led by the Kilusan ng mga Magbubukid ng Pilipinas would hold mass protests in major urban centers.

Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza said the coupon system depended on the availability of funds and was not an assurance that every poor family would have food on the table.

Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador said the system was a knee-jerk response and an attempt by the government to score brownie points.

"Food rationing tends to [distract] the people from the real issues that led to the economic crisis," he said. "There is a need for an honest-to-goodness economic policy turnaround that will pave the way for lasting solutions to poverty."

On the edge

Malacañang justified the coupon scheme.

"In any crisis, the government must serve first and foremost those who are on the edge of survival," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said, adding:

"Relief, however temporary, is called for as we lead on in the more fundamental and larger reforms that would deal with poverty permanently."

Bunye also said President Macapagal-Arroyo's antipoverty formula was focused on opening more rooms for opportunity "even as we spread the safety and security nets that enable the people to cross over from extreme economic difficulty to more stable lives."

But even administration senators—Juan Flavier, Lito Lapid, Manuel Villar Jr. and Rodolfo Biazon—were one in saying that the plan should be implemented only in the short term.

Lapid said the government needed to address the problem by providing people jobs and livelihood.

Bandage solution

"It would be better to teach people how to fish rather than just giving them fish," he told reporters in Filipino.

Flavier said the coupon system was "a good short-term solution" to the serious problem of hunger.

"But the government should be careful ... that the identification [of families] is foolproof and the system is not abused," he said.

Biazon said that rather than providing food coupons, the government should initiate "more income-generating opportunities."

He warned that the coupon system could even cause more discontent "if it is mismanaged, as what happens in the distribution of relief goods during disasters."

Villar said the intention to provide food to poor families was good but did not address the "core of the problem."

"It's like covering with a bandage a deep and recurring wound," he said. "The bleeding may stop but the wound won't heal." *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Norman Bordadora, Cynthia D. Balana*

Palace mad at Piatco: Are they hiding something?

From page A1

Piatco, which is 60 percent owned by the Cheng family, 30 percent by Fraport, and 10 percent by Nisho Iwai Corp. of Japan.

Fault-finding

Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, legal counsel of Piatco president Cheng Yong, said Piatco had nothing to hide. "Naia Terminal 3 is a state-of-the-art, fully functional and modern international airport terminal," she said in a statement.

"What Piatco is opposed to is an inspection by biased non-experts or government lawyers with no avowed purpose other than fault-finding in aid of the government's defense before the ICC and ICSID arbitration panels," she said.

She said it was improper for the government to demand an inspection in the absence of an amicable settlement between the government and Piatco.

The administration had offered to pay Piatco $350 million so it could operate the new terminal after the Supreme Court nullified Piatco's contract with the government last year. But Piatco refused the offer, saying it was not enough to cover its costs. Due to the impasse, the new airport terminal is mothballed indefinitely.

To recover its costs, Piatco filed an arbitration case with the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and hearings have started in Singapore. Piatco is asking for a compensation of about $535 million.

Piatco's German partner Fraport AG filed a similar arbitration case with the World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). The German firm is seeking reimbursement of its $425 million investment in Naia 3.

Crazy

In the arbitration case, the administration said there were defects in the construction of Naia 3. It had asked the arbitration tribunal permission to inspect but the request was denied.

Sen. Joker Arroyo dismissed as "crazy" Piatco's decision to bar a government team from inspecting the passenger terminal.

"How in the world can Piatco ask government to pay them when they did not allow officials to look at the terminal?" he told reporters.

But Ms Arroyo said Piatco was not entitled to any payment because the Supreme Court had nullified its contract with the government. "If you're selling something, you should show the product," he said.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Bunye said he was puzzled why Piatco would suddenly be nervous about having visitors to its terminal after giving members of Congress and the airline industry a tour of the facility last week.

Bunye scoffed at Piatco vice president Moises Tolentino's excuse that the company had to spend half a million pesos a day for electricity alone to light up the place. (Piatco opened Naia 3 to guests for five days last week.)

"This only proved Piatco's penchant to jack up the costs," Bunye said, alluding to charges that Naia 3's costs were padded.

No padding of costs

Tolentino, who denied that the consortium had padded its costs, said the invitation to members of Congress and the airline industry was initiated by Takenaka International Corp., the Japanese company that built the terminal.

He said the company spent $55,000 (roughly P3.09 million) to make the airport terminal fully operational during the five-day period when it was opened to guests.

From Sept. 26 to 30, Naia 3 opened all air-conditioners, escalators, walkways and baggage carousel. Tolentino said the costs included payment to technicians, guards and other staff.

"The cost was incurred by Takenaka, which we have to pay. There is nothing wrong with that amount," said Tolentino.

Piatco invited ambassadors and embassy heads on Sept. 27 and 28. On Sept. 29, more than 50 airline and travel agency representatives toured the terminal. On Sept. 30, Piatco brought in Senators Edgardo Angara, Juan Ponce Enrile and Alfredo Lim.

Tolentino said the company also invited Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Jinggoy Estrada. But both weren't able to make it.

"All the major airlines were represented like Thai Airways, Japanese Airlines, Philippine Airlines, Northwest. They were all satisfied with what they saw. Most even had praises," said the Piatco official.

Not this year

Mendoza said the Arroyo administration would like to open the passenger terminal as soon as legal issues were resolved.

"The intention of the government is to open Naia 3 but I am not sure if we could do that this year," Mendoza told reporters at the sidelines of the 30th Philippine Business Conference yesterday.

Leaders of the House of Representatives urged the government and Piatco to try anew to amicably settle the dispute.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) and Rep. Monico Puentevella (Lakas, Bacolod City), chair of the House committee on transportation and communications, said the continued closure of the terminal had a chilling effect on the country's potential investors.

"A settlement will always be better than a court battle which would affect public interest and convenience," Nograles said. *With a report form Cynthia D. Balana*

Dayrit to critics: It's the economy, not population

From page A1

with huge populations—why are they rich?" he said. "China has a huge population."

Wrong answer

It was far from a perfect example. The United Nations World Food Program has said China's recorded national food sufficiency "hides huge disparities in food insecurity in marginal and remote areas."

Yesterday, even the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) pointed to the country's high population growth rate as a major cause of poverty—and, therefore, hunger—in the Philippines.

UNFPA country representative Zahidul Huque said the government should declare a "sound population policy" if it intended to achieve the millennium development goals of cutting in half the number of people suffering from hunger and those earning less than $1 a day by year 2015.

Huque, guest of honor at the 10th anniversary celebration of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), said the situation was "really serious."

The levels of hunger in the country was "perhaps one of the highest," he said in an interview. Also, he said, while the Philippines' gross national product has moderately increased, per capita GNP was static. "Growth here is not really pro-poor ... it has benefited the rich more, so the poor people are getting poorer. If you see more hunger now, you should not be surprised."

Lack of interest

The Philippines was one of 179 countries that signed the ICPD in Cairo, Egypt, in 1994. Manila made a commitment to meet eight development goals, which mostly revolved around reducing poverty incidence and providing health care.

And yet, Huque noted, the high birth rate in the Philippines had obviously "affected the purchasing power of the people." Add this to the "very high inflation," he said, and "all these things make it difficult for individuals to purchase goods they need every day."

He warned that with the increasing incidence of poverty, more provinces in the country would fail to meet the millennium goals.

Former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla echoed Huque's observations and blamed the government's "lack of interest" in managing the population problem.

"The lack of correct information and access to family planning methods has been a problem for quite some time, but it became particularly worse under this administration," said Medalla, former head of the National Economic Development Authority.

He assailed the government for refusing to buy contraceptives for distribution to the poor while it could.

"Now there's no more funding, no support, no advocacy," Medalla said. "It's probably the worst time for family planning services."

The Philippines has the highest population growth rate in Asia with 2.36 percent, or 1.7 million births recorded every year.

As he was saying...

Dayrit had something to say about contraceptives, too. Sticking to his guns, he said Thailand brought down its population growth because the economy improved, not because contraceptives were made widely available.

"Their economic activity and economic policies ... brought down their population. They supported their farmers. They built more farm-to-market roads," he pointed out.

In short then, he was asked, what was really pulling down the Philippines? "The economy isn't working," the health secretary said again. And agreeing with Huque at least on one point, he added: "[Also] structural problems. We've been discussing this for a long time—who's getting rich in this country?"

Still Dayrit insisted: If farmers and the workers were getting enough to live on, they would limit the number of their children so they could plan for the future. "I don't think that it's the other way around."

168 million Filipinos in 29 years, says UN

THE POPULATION of the Philippines is expected to double in 29 years despite international commitments to curb the country's birth rate, a joint government-UN report said yesterday.

The population, estimated at 84 million in 2004, is growing by 2.34 percent a year, the Commission on Population and UN Population Fund report said.

"At this rate, the population will double in only 29 years," the report said.

The country's population increased 25.8 percent in 10 years, from 60.7 million in 1990 to 76.5 million in 2000.

Nongovernment organizations involved in family planning blame the high growth rate on opposition to artificial birth control from religious conservatives in the predominantly Roman Catholic country and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"A trend toward religious conservatism and the scaling down of government efforts to adhere to international commitments" was to blame, said Rhodora Raterta, executive director of the private Family Planning Organization of the Philippines.

Junice Melgar, from the nongovernment group Likhaan, accused the government of "withholding" reproductive health services because of President Arroyo's bias toward natural family planning methods.

Other predominantly Catholic countries, including Brazil and Mexico, have been doing well in promoting family planning, said Zahidula Huque, the UN Population Fund country representative.

The Philippines has committed to lowering its replacement level fertility—a birth rate at which a couple has only enough children to replace themselves—to 2.1 children by 2020. But the level was 3.5 from 1998-2003, down just 0.2 from 1993-98.

AP

Court orders BIR to refund Lucio Tan P1.036 billion

From page A1

tax evasion case the Bureau of Internal Revenue filed against Tan in 1993.

The Supreme Court remanded the nine counts of tax evasion to the Marikina Metropolitan Trial Court (MeTC) on July 13. The high court reversed the rulings of the Court of Appeals and the Marikina Regional Trial Court, which both affirmed the March 1999 decision of the MeTC to dismiss the tax evasion cases against Tan and several officers of Fortune Tobacco Corp.

Excess payments

In a 35-page ruling released yesterday, the CA Second Special Division upheld the Court of Tax Appeals decision ordering the BIR to refund the P1,035,772,945 in excess taxes paid by Tan's Fortune Tobacco Corp. from 2000 to 2002.

The BIR has 15 days to appeal the ruling.

The appellate court said the tax court was correct in ruling that a portion of the BIR Revenue Regulation No. 17-99, under which the taxes were collected, was illegal.

"While we may agree with (the BIR) that administrative agencies in the exercise of their rule-making power can formulate rules and regulations in order to achieve the declared policies as laid down by Congress, the same does not hold true in the present case," said the ruling penned by Associate Justice Jose L. Sabio Jr.

"It is beyond cavil that Revenue Regulations 17-99 exceeded the provisions of RA 8240 so that the CTA was correct in declaring its nullity," it added.

Associate Justices Eubulo Verzola and Monina Arevalo-Zenarosa concurred in the decision.

Excise tax hike

The Department of Finance issued the regulation in accordance with Republic Act 8240, which mandated a 12-percent increase in excise taxes on cigarettes packed by machines by Jan. 1, 2000 after a shift from the ad valorem (computed as a percentage of the price) to the specific tax (a fixed amount per unit of the product) system.

The law, which took effect on Jan. 1, 1997, set a three-year transition period.

However, the appellate court said the revenue regulation resulted in an unauthorized "administrative legislation" because it was contrary to RA 8240.

Not lower

It noted that the BIR regulation had said that the excise taxes to be collected from the cigarettes should "not be lower than the excise tax" paid before Jan. 1, 2000.

But the court said Congress' intention was to impose the new rates of excise tax "which is to increase by 12 percent even if it may be lower than the amount being paid previous to Jan. 1, 2000."

Issued by the finance secretary on Dec. 16, 1999, the revenue regulation covered Fortune-made cigarette brands Champion M 100, Salem M 100, Salem M. King, Camel F King, Camel Lights Box 20's, Camel Filters Box 20's, Winston F. Kings, and Winston Lights.

On Feb. 7, 2000, Fortune filed an appeal before the BIR Appellate Division, initially claiming that it was overtaxed by P680,387,025 from Feb. 1, 2000 to Dec. 31,2001 but it was dismissed.

The tobacco company went to CTA and won. The BIR appealed to the CA but lost.

Palace told: Stop playing dumb on 'jueteng'

By Carlito Pablo

HOUSE Minority Leader Rep. Francis Escudero (NPC, Sorsogon) yesterday asked Malacañang to "stop playing dumb" on the 'jueteng' exposé of Pangasinan Archbishop Oscar Cruz.

"The government knows who the jueteng lords are, and the government big fish coddling them," Escudero said. "Every piece and fragment of the jueteng infrastructure is known to the present leadership."

Escudero described as "both comic and tragic" the Palace's reaction to Cruz's recent revelation that four national government officials are protecting jueteng operations.

Malacañang had asked Cruz to name names, pledging to take action against these jueteng coddlers.

"The crude effort to put Archbishop Cruz on the spot has only intensified the general public perception that some top people in the government have been jueteng coddlers," Escudero said.

No nonsense

Escudero said that instead of playing blind and deaf, the government should instead mobilize a no-nonsense effort to stop the illegal numbers game.

"Department of Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes is in the best position to lead the fight against jueteng since he resigned from a government toppled by allegations of jueteng involvement," Escudero said.

Escudero was referring to Reyes' withdrawal of support as then armed forces chief from the impeached President Joseph Estrada who was accused of, among other things, receiving jueteng payoffs.

Reyes' withdrawal of support from Estrada was the high point of the Edsa 2 revolt of 2001 that led to the installation of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the new President.

"Reyes should lead the anti-jueteng effort to show that he does not have double standards about jueteng," Escudero said.

Escudero pointed out that Reyes has all the means to stamp out jueteng, from his intelligence funds, local government units and the support of the police.

"A determined DILG secretary can stamp out jueteng within a few months," Escudero said. "There is no need for anybody outside of government to name names."

Cops go hi-tech

By Christian V. Esguerra

OF ALL the criticisms thrown at the Philippine National Police, one thing has just become an exception: it's no longer blind when it comes to crime.

The PNP has just completed its ambitious "crime mapping" project that enables police to identify crime-prone areas nationwide—and do something about them—with a simple click of the mouse.

"That means we will now be always informed and updated on crime incidents happening anywhere in the country," Supt. Dennis Siervo, project manager, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

With such pieces of updated information, Siervo said the PNP leadership could now easily determine areas where a larger police contingent is needed and map out policies to solve specific crimes happening in specific areas.

The program can also help detectives "better understand the hunting patterns of serial criminals and hypothesize where these offenders might live," he explained.

The project was begun during the term of former PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. and was completed when Deputy Director Gen. Edgar Aglipay assumed office.

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CIRCULAR NO. 455
Series of 2004

Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution No. 1352 dated 16 September 2004, Section 5 of Circular No. 410 dated 29 October 2003 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 5. EFFECTIVITY OF SELECTION AND INCLUSION IN BSP LIST

The selection of external auditors shall be valid for a period of three years. BSP selected external auditors shall apply for the renewal of their selection every three years. The provisions of Section 2 (General Requirements) and Section 4 (Application and Pre-qualification Requirements) of this Circular shall likewise apply for each application for renewal.

The Supervision and Examination Sector (SES) shall make an annual assessment of the performance of external auditors and will recommend deletion from the list even prior to the three-year renewal period, if based on assessment, the external auditors' report did not comply with BSP requirements.

External auditors who meet the requirements specified in this Circular shall be included in the list of BSP selected external auditors. In case of partnership, inclusion in the list of BSP selected external auditors shall apply to the audit firm only and not to the individual signing partners or auditors under its employment.

The BSP will circularize to all banks, quasi banks, trust entities and NSSLAs the list of selected external auditors once a year. The BSP, however, shall not be liable for any damage or loss that may arise from its selection of the external auditors to be engaged by banks, quasi-banks, trust entities or NSSLAs for regular audit or special engagements."

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a national paper of general circulation.

For the Monetary Board:

(Sgd.) **ARMANDO L. SURATOS**
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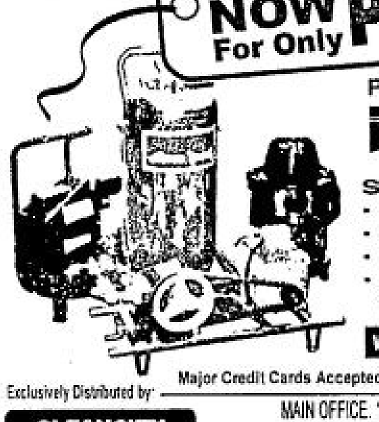

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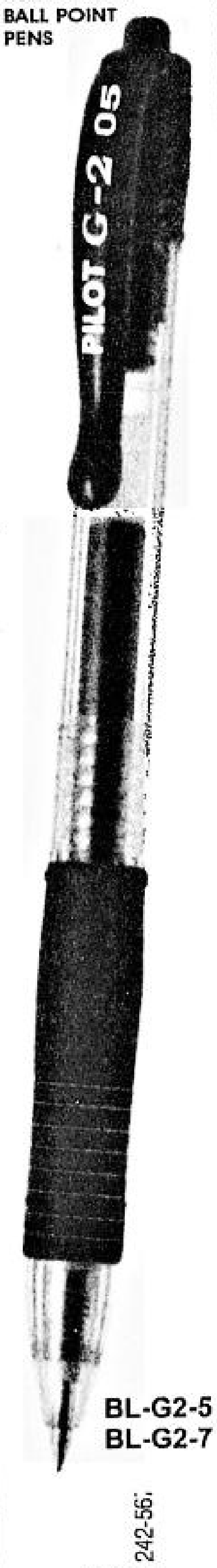

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bremer's comments spark political storm over Iraq invasion

WASHINGTON—Former US administrator in Iraq Paul Bremer sparked a political storm on Tuesday by saying not enough US troops had been sent to back the invasion.

John Kerry, the Democratic challenger to President George W. Bush in the Nov. 2 US election, called on the Bush administration to acknowledge its misjudgment over the invasion of Iraq.

The White House largely remained quiet about Bremer's comments only suggesting that Bremer did not raise the issue with Bush, without making a firm denial.

Bremer sparked the controversy with a speech on Monday that contradicted assertions by Bush and top defense department officials that the US military had everything it needed to secure Iraq.

The administration has also been embarrassed again by remarks from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld who said in a speech he had seen no "strong, hard evidence" linking former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein and al-Qaida.

Bremer said: "We never had enough troops on the ground."

He told a conference of insurance professionals that he arrived in Baghdad in May 2003 to find "horrid" looting because of the lack of patrols.

"We paid a big price for not stopping it, because it established an atmosphere of lawlessness," Bremer said.

In a statement sent later to The Washington Post, Bremer stressed his support for the US strategy in Iraq, however.

"I believe that we currently have sufficient troop levels in Iraq," he said, noting that his references to troop levels referred to May 2003, "when I believed we needed either more coalition troops or Iraqi security forces to address the looting."

Bremer raised similar concerns about troop levels at a forum at DePauw University in Indiana on Sept. 16, according to a transcript released by the university.

"The single most important change—the one thing that would have improved the situation—would have been having more troops in Iraq at the beginning and throughout," Bremer was quoted as saying.

"Although I raised this issue a number of times with our government, I should have been even more insistent," he said.

The White House suggested that Bremer had never raised his worries with Bush. But spokesperson Scott McClellan did not make a categorical denial.

"They met on a regular basis. I don't remember that Ambassador Bremer ever talked about that, but we never got into the habit of reading out any of those discussions," McClellan said.

The administration made the case that decisions on troop levels were made in consultation with troop commanders.

Larry DiRita, the Pentagon spokesman, said in a statement that Rumsfeld relied on recommendations from military commanders and the Joint Chiefs of Staff "as the basis for decisions regarding force levels." *AFP*

US, Iraqi forces strike more rebel strongholds

BAGHDAD—US and Iraqi forces swept through rebel bastions south of Baghdad and pounded positions held by Iraq's most wanted, Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi, in Fallujah Wednesday, pressing on with a promised anti-insurgency crackdown as Iraq again took center stage in the US presidential race.

And on the second day of a surprise visit, British Foreign Minister Jack Straw countered widespread skepticism that the war-torn country's tough-talking Prime Minister Iyad Allawi could stabilize Iraq in time for elections set for January.

The US military announced in a statement overnight that it had launched its largest operation to date in the Babil province south of Baghdad, in a bid to dismantle insurgent cells there and cut off the western rebel enclave from some of its rear bases.

"While rounding up 30 suspects during the initial sweep, the Iraqis and their American allies seized a suspected insurgent training camp and took control of the Jurf Kas Sukr bridge," it said.

"The bridge, spanning the Euphrates southwest of Baghdad, is believed to be a favored corridor for insurgents moving into and out of key cities, including the capital hub and the current (rebel) sanctuary of Fallujah," the military added.

In an almost daily occurrence, US warplanes also pounded Fallujah directly overnight, hitting what it described as a meeting of ring leaders loyal to Zarqawi, the most wanted man in Iraq.

There was no immediate report of any casualties after the raid.

The theocratic enclave has been off-limits to ground troops for months and its retaking is supposed to mark the climax of a bid by Allawi's government and his US allies to reclaim the country's lawless hot spots ahead of the January vote.

In a similar thrust, thousands of US-Iraq forces thrust into the rebel stronghold of Samarra last week, killing more than a hundred insurgents.

On Wednesday, elite Iraqi units and US troops were continuing their sweep for wanted militants while pressing on with emergency reconstruction work in the battle-scarred city.

A US officer told an AFP reporter on the ground that electricity would be back at 90 percent capacity by Thursday and children would be able to return to school by Saturday.

The recapture of Samarra, a key insurgent hotbed north of Baghdad, is being held as a model for future efforts to retake the country's trouble spots by the end of the year. *AFP*

LOCAL residents try to rescue intact household items from the rubbles of houses flattened in an overnight air strike in Fallujah, Iraq on Wednesday.

AP

Scientists recreate killer genes from the 1918 flu pandemic

PARIS—Scientists working in top-security labs say they have recreated pathogens from the 1918 flu pandemic, the greatest plague of the 20th century, in a bid to find out why this strain was so extraordinarily lethal.

Using reverse genetic engineering, the US team took two key genes from the 1918 virus and slotted them into human flu viruses to which lab mice were known to be immune.

The two genes code for a spike-like molecule called hae-magglutinin (HA), which binds to specific receptors on the surface of cells in the body, and another protein, neuraminidase (NA).

The mice were injected in the nose with the recombinant viruses.

Within three days, mice that had been exposed to the HA gene were mortally ill. Post-mortems showed the virus had rampaged through their lungs, producing inflammation and hemorrhaging characteristic of the symptoms induced by the 1918 outbreak.

At least 20 million and perhaps as many as 50 million people died in the 1918-1919 pandemic, the highest toll of any disease in the last century.

Scientists say that the disease leapt to humans by mutating from bird flu, possibly after passing through pigs, which are able to harbor both human and avian viruses and thus allow them to swap genes as the viruses reproduce.

For that reason, experts are deeply concerned that the avian flu that has broken out in poultry flocks in parts of Southeast Asia may acquire genes that will make it highly infectious as well as lethal for humans.

The researchers, led by Yoshihiro Kawaoka of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, stress that the experiment is only conclusive for lab mice, not humans.

Nevertheless, they say, it adds strongly to suspicions that what made the type A 1918 virus strain so extraordinarily vicious was the unique profile of its HA gene.

That finding opens up good avenues for diagnostic tools for spotting emergent viruses with this genetic signature, thus tackling an outbreak in its early stages.

"Once the properties of the (1918) HA gene that gave rise to its lethal infectivity are better understood, it should be possible to devise effective control measures and to improve global surveillance networks for influenza viruses that pose the greatest threat to humans as well as other animal species," the authors say.

The study is published on Thursday in Nature, the British science weekly. *AFP*

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Cheney, Edwards controlled in aggressive debate

LAS VEGAS—Vice President Dick Cheney and Democrat John Edwards wielded stilettos rather than clubs in their vice presidential debate on Tuesday, keeping their emotions under tight control while still delivering fierce personal attacks on each another.

Both candidates seemed anxious to avoid facial expressions and other tics that might provide fodder for negative post-debate spin. Both spoke clearly and gestured often with their hands. Both delivered their fiercest attacks more in a tone of sorrow than anger.

One group of voters in Nevada was more impressed by Cheney's calm, authoritative manner and command of his material and said he presented an image of strength and unflappability while the younger Edwards seemed less seasoned.

"Cheney seemed a little stronger, possibly because of his experience. His body language seemed more stable and his command of the facts impressed me," said Debra Lara, a casino worker who was undecided in the Nov. 2 election.

There were significant stylistic differences between the candidates. Cheney spent much of the time looking down while Edwards engaged the camera and smiled more often. Cheney resorted to wry laughter only as a way of suggesting that his opponent's arguments contained so many distortions that he did not know where to begin refuting them.

Brian Scroggins, who runs a company that makes giant signs and placards, was struck by how Edwards quoted verbatim some of the responses offered by his presidential running mate John Kerry in last Thursday's first presidential debate. He said it made it seem as if the North Carolina senator did not have words of his own.

Edwards quoted Kerry as saying the United States had allowed Osama bin Laden, architect of the attacks against the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, to escape when he was trapped in Afghanistan. He also repeated Kerry's words that the United States was bearing 90 percent of the financial burden and suffering 90 percent of the casualties in the war in Iraq.

Cheney was obviously well prepared for these lines and offered responses that President George W. Bush had not succeeded in delivering last week, pointing out that Iraqis themselves were suffering major casualties.

"In general, they both presented their points. They both took the gloves off a bit but that's what you would expect. For me, the purpose was to show why one would be a better president if called upon to serve, being a heartbeat away from the pre-sidency and I thought Cheney obviously won that question," Scroggins said.

Candidates in political debates must tread a fine line between attacking their opponents and seeming too nasty and personal. The Nevada voters thought Cheney, who has an image of being rather cold and unlikable, avoided that trap.

Cheney said his opponent's Senate voting record was undistinguished, cited figures for the number of votes he had missed and said a local newspaper in his home state of North Carolina had dubbed him "Senator Gone." He said he had presided over the Senate once a week for the past four years but had never met Edwards before they shook hands at the beginning of the debate. *Reuters*

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Iran boosts missiles range to 2,000 km

TEHRAN—Iran has increased the range of its missiles to 2,000 km, a senior official was quoted as saying on Tuesday, putting parts of Europe within reach for the first time.

Military experts had earlier put Iran's missile range at 1,300 km, which would allow it to strike anywhere in Israel.

"Now we have the power to launch a missile with a 2,000 km range," the news agency IRNA quoted influential former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani as saying. "Iran is determined to improve its military capabilities."

"If the Americans attack Iran, the world will change... they will not dare to make such a mistake," Rafsanjani said in a speech at an exhibition on Space and Stable National Security.

Washington has accused Tehran of secretly developing nuclear weapons.

Iran insists its nuclear program is aimed only at generating electricity. It says its missiles are for defensive purposes and would be used to counter a possible Israeli or US strike against its nuclear facilities.

"The United States has had, and continues to have, serious concerns about Iran's missile programs," US state department spokesperson Adam Ereli told reporters.

"We view Iran's efforts to further develop its missile capabilities as a threat to the region and to the United States interests, and all the more so in light of its ongoing nuclear program."

Ereli declined to say whether Washington believed the Iranian official's 2,000 km range claim, saying he could not discuss intelligence matters.

In recent months, Iranian officials have frequently trumpeted their ability to strike back at any aggressor, and in August they announced they had successfully tested an upgraded version of the medium-range Shahab-3 missile.

Military experts say the unmodified Shahab-3 had a range of 1,300 km. Shahab means meteor in Persian.

While Iran has had Israel in its missile sights for some time, Israeli officials said the longer 2,000 km range was more significant for Europe than for Israel.

"We are well prepared to defend the state of Israel... The Iranians will have to think twice before using these kinds of weapons," a senior Israeli government said.

Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani said last month that a new "strategic missile" had recently been delivered to the armed forces, but did not give its range. *Reuters*

Thai PM fires ministers over bird flu

BANGKOK—Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra fired ministers responsible for dealing with a bird flu crisis and violence in the largely Muslim south on Wednesday, just months ahead of a general election.

Thaksin said he wanted to bring more expertise to bear on the problems, which analysts said were hurting his coalition government's popularity.

"The goal is for work results," Thaksin told reporters after the announcement, which saw Agriculture Minister Somsak Thepsuthin kicked upstairs and Defense Minister Chetta Thanajaro become the second man to lose the job since violence erupted in the south in January.

Somsak switched places with Muslim southerner Wan Muhamad Noor Matha, who had become one of seven deputy prime ministers after losing the interior ministry in March.

Chetta, appointed only in March, left the government and was replaced by his deputy, Gen. Samphan Boonyanan, the royal palace announced.

Thaksin, who must hold a general election by March, has given his government until the end of October to wipe out the H5N1 bird flu virus which has killed 11 Thais since January and has promised heads would roll if it failed.

The government has gone into a frenzy of action since last week, when Thailand announced its first probable case of human-to-human transmission of the virus, a mother believed to have caught it from her dying daughter.

Health ministry volunteers have been sent out to search for possible human bird flu victims and ensure any sick poultry are reported.

Thaksin said he appointed Wan Muhamad Noor agriculture minister because his familiarity with provincial governors would help boost their efficiency in tackling bird flu. *Reuters*

Steam, magma building up in Mt. St. Helens

MOUNT ST. HELENS NATIONAL VOLCANIC MONUMENT—Magma continued to push up into the Mount St. Helens volcano on Tuesday, pushing up the lava crust and creating a boiling lake in the crater, a government scientist said.

Mount St. Helens, which erupted in 1980 and killed 57 people, has been emitting steam and ash since Friday, prompting the US Geological Survey to issue its highest level of alert, warning of an imminent eruption.

The lava dome created in the crater after the 1980 eruption has risen a total of 46 meters and heated rock has melted part of a glacier nestled next to the dome in the crater, creating a bubbling lake, USGS volcanologist Jake Lowenstern said.

"About 20 percent of the (lava) dome has been deformed by intrusion of magma into the system," Lowenstern told reporters at task force headquarters in Vancouver, Washington, 54 km south of Mount St. Helens.

The latest series of eruptions are the first since 1986, when small eruptions added lava to the lava dome.

Mount St. Helens will most likely undergo a similar lava building event, Lowenstern said, rather than exploding violently and causing widespread damage.

The USGS closed a nearby visitors center at the Johnston Ridge Observatory as a safety precaution, although tourists and media flocked to the Coldwater Ridge Visitor Center north of the mountain. *Reuters*

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BLESSING OF THE FLEUR-DE-LIS- AUDITORIUM : A SERENDIPITOUS AFFAIR

by Marionette Ocampo-Martinez

There will be a touch of serendipity when the administration, faculty and staff, students, and alumnae of St. Paul University Manila gather for the blessing of the newly renovated and refurbished Fleur-de-lis Auditorium designed by Architect Ireneo Jazareno on 7 October 2004. Forty-seven years ago, on 21 December 1957, the St. Paul College of Manila community gathered for the inauguration and blessing of the Fleur-de-lis Auditorium with mixed feelings of pride and nostalgia. They took pride in the imposing edifice, which completed the neo-classic facade of the school, but felt nostalgic for the flame tree-lined garden, the age-old acacia trees and the lotus and goldfish pond that it replaced.

The auditorium, which was built by the late Architect Jose L. Reynoso and painted to perfection by his brother Bibiano, was at that time likened to a phoenix "rising from the ashes of a ravaging war" as a "monumental tribute to the courage and dreams" of the Sisters of St. Paul de Chartres. It is indeed a fitting tribute to this community of undaunted religious that the centennial of their coming to Philippine shores will be celebrated in the auditorium, which--like a phoenix in its second rising from the ravages of time-- once more stands proud and tall.

While the Chapel of the Crucified Christ is the heart of the SPU Manila campus, signifying the Christo-centric nature of Paulinian education, the Fleur-de-lis Auditorium is the wellspring of its artistic expression. For nearly fifty years, this hall has witnessed the birth and nurturing of the Paulinians' love and gift for the arts: music, dance, and drama. True to the spirit captured by Carlos "Botong" Francisco in the mural at the lobby, the Fleur-de-lis Auditorium is a temple of Philippine art, whose indigenous beauty and raw dynamism have been enhanced and refined by the cultural influences of our Spanish and American colonizers.

Before the school had its own auditorium, its drama group, the Paulinian Players Guild, presented its plays in the theatres of its good neighbors, Assumption Convent and Ateneo de Manila. (Indeed, with these three neighboring schools, Maryknoll and St. Theresa's on San Marcelino, and a bit farther down, St. Scholastica's and La Salle, one could have his pick of prestigious Catholic schools in the city of Manila.) Campus thespians, like Teresing Gomez and her sister Milagros Gomez- Evangelista, Angelita Martinez-Florio, Tessie Ojeda-Luz, and Baby Puyat-Reyes acted in dramas like *L'Aiglon and Elizabeth and Essex*, directed by the legendary Daisy Hontiveros-Avellana, and later, by the equally legendary Onofre Pagsanjan, who was then a young Ateneo graduate honing his directorial skills.

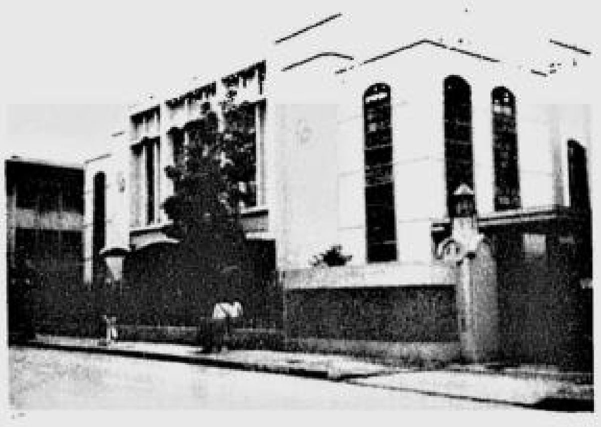
With the Fleur-de-lis Auditorium, the Paulinians brought to life the vision of Botong Francisco: the evolution of the Philippine performing arts. On this stage, Paulinians have danced to the beat of native drums and the rhythmic clap of bamboo poles and reenacted the simple love stories of the *moro-moro* (directed by the late Dr. Felicidad Mendoza) and the *zarzuela* (directed by Dr. Dolores Ponce). In this hall, generations of Paulinian Glee Club members have rendered soulful *kundimans* and lively folk songs, classical gems from European operas, religious cantatas, negro spirituals, novelty and pop songs with consistent excellence (under the baton of Sr. Marie Vincent Llamson, Prof. Lucio San Pedro, and Mrs. Mercedes Agravante-Isleta), sometimes accompanied by the St. Paul's Girls' Orchestra, conducted by Prof. Vicente Sales. And who can forget the Broadway musicals, those delightful showcases of song, dance, and drama, mostly directed by Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J. and produced by the late, dearly beloved Mother Socorro Angela Reyes, SPC, which put St. Paul College of Manila on the cultural map of the nation.

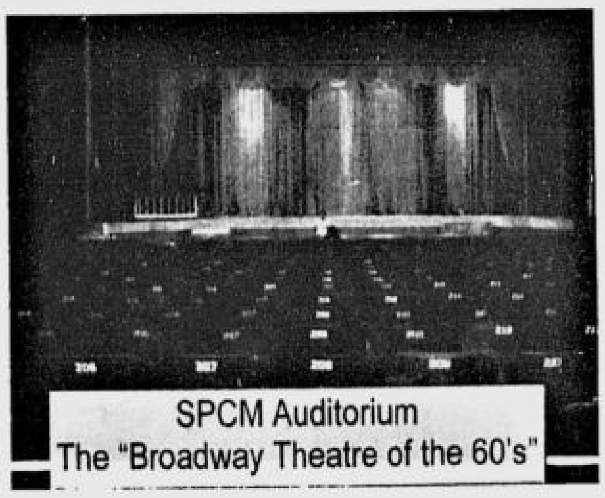
It was in this auditorium that young, nubile Paulinians trembled on the brink of fame and stardom as they answered their calling for the performing arts: ballerinas Tina Santos-Wahl, the late Cecille Santos-Girman and Honey Barredo-Thompson (later known as Maniya); singers Celeste Legaspi-Gallardo, Noemi Manikan-Gomez, Cynthia Patag, and Janet Basco-Revilla; actresses Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, June Keithley-Castro, Baby Barredo, Charo Santos-Concio, Joy Soler-de Castro, and Sherry Lara-Alingod; and some who did not pursue an acting career but made their mark in other fields, like Cristina Castañer-Ponce Enrile, Sr. Maribel Carceller, Lulu Tesoro-Castañeda, Bon-jin Bolinao, and Maritess Revilla-Araneta and Tina Revilla-Valencia. They were joined by Jeanne Young from St. Paul, Q.C., and Paulinian friends Vic Silayan, Tommy Abuel, Butz Aquino, Robert Arevalo, Noel Trinidad, Subas Herrero, Dick Chua, and Bon Vibar.

It was a glorious age for SPCM, a time when the whole school sang and snapped their fingers to the tune and the beat of the songs and dances being rehearsed in the auditorium. The hall was not yet air-conditioned so the open doors and windows allowed the music to wander into the corridors and the driveways and fill the campus with its rhythm and joy!

The inauguration of the Fleur-de-lis Auditorium in 1957 was a grand affair, with no less than the Archbishop of Manila, Rufino Santos, D.D. blessing the edifice and prominent guests like the Papal Nuncio Egidio Vagnozzi, D.D., Mrs. Luz Banzon Magsaysay, and Senator Francisco Rodrigo. The blessing this time will be particularly meaningful and soulful as it will be officiated by the Paulinians' best loved priest, Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J. and attended by guests closest to the Paulinian heart.

The serendipity in the rising of the phoenix, the first in 1957 and the second 47 years later, will be echoed by the same mixed emotions of pride and nostalgia: pride in the air-conditioning and the state-of-the-art theater equipment and facilities of the present auditorium and nostalgia for the "golden days in the sunshine of our happy youth" when music, dance, and drama reigned supreme within these walls. Nostalgia, however, will give way to joyful anticipation because the new President of the newly inaugurated St. Paul University, Manila, Ms. Wynna Medina, herself a Paulinian of that age, is determined to put the school back on that cultural map. For the Paulinians of this age, the time to say, "Look, a new day has begun" has indeed come!




SPCM Auditorium
The "Broadway Theatre of the 60's"

3 US physicists win Nobel for 'theory of everything'

STOCKHOLM—Three American scientists won the 2004 Nobel physics prize on Tuesday for showing how tiny quark particles interact, helping to explain everything from how a coin spins to how the universe was built.

David Gross, David Politzer and Frank Wilczek showed how the attraction between quarks—nature's basic building blocks—is strong when they are far apart and weak when they are close together, like the tension in an elastic band when it is pulled.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said their work helped give "a unified description of all the forces of Nature... from the tiniest distances within the atomic nucleus to the vast distances of the universe."

It explained how "an everyday phenomenon like a coin spinning on a table" is determined by fundamental forces.

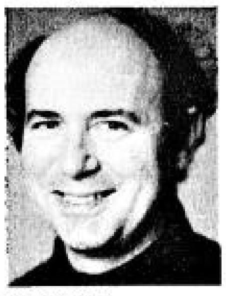
The three scientists showed how quarks, the building blocks of protons and neutrons, were held together by a so-called "strong force."

Without this force there would be nothing holding the tiny particles together, nor indeed any basic building blocks to assemble into an object like a coin.

"They really helped us to understand how it is that quarks are bound together to make protons and neutrons," said David Wark, a particle physicist at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratories in Britain.

GROSS

POLITZER



WILCZEK

Their theory, known as quantum chromodynamics, also showed that when quarks are close together at extremely high energies they act like free particles, a state they called "asymptotic freedom."

In this state, they resembled those of the other forces in subatomic physics—electromagnetism and the "weak force" dealing with nuclear decay—meaning the US trio had made a first step to "the theory of everything," Gross told Reuters by phone from Santa Barbara, California.

A grand unified theory of the universe has eluded scientists, who cannot yet reconcile the way subatomic particles behave with theories on the force of gravity.

"Once you understand all these forces it turns out that there are certain features that cry out for unification," Gross added. "Remarkably at the same energy almost, gravity also becomes equally strong."

The next stage of unification involves "not just these forces that govern atoms and nuclear behavior "but also all the universe," Gross said. "That's one of the main goals and efforts of the last 20 years to search for the unified theory."

Wilczek, speaking in Cambridge, Massachusetts, said the trio's theories first appeared "outlandish" when they emerged in the '70s and Nobel recognition came as a "great relief."

Politzer, 55, chose not to attend a news conference announcing the prize at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California.

"He is shy. He is going to take this in his own quiet way," the institute's president, David Baltimore, told reporters, adding that Politzer was "overwhelmed with gratification."

Reuters

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The North Rail Transit : Linking Up For A Strong Republic

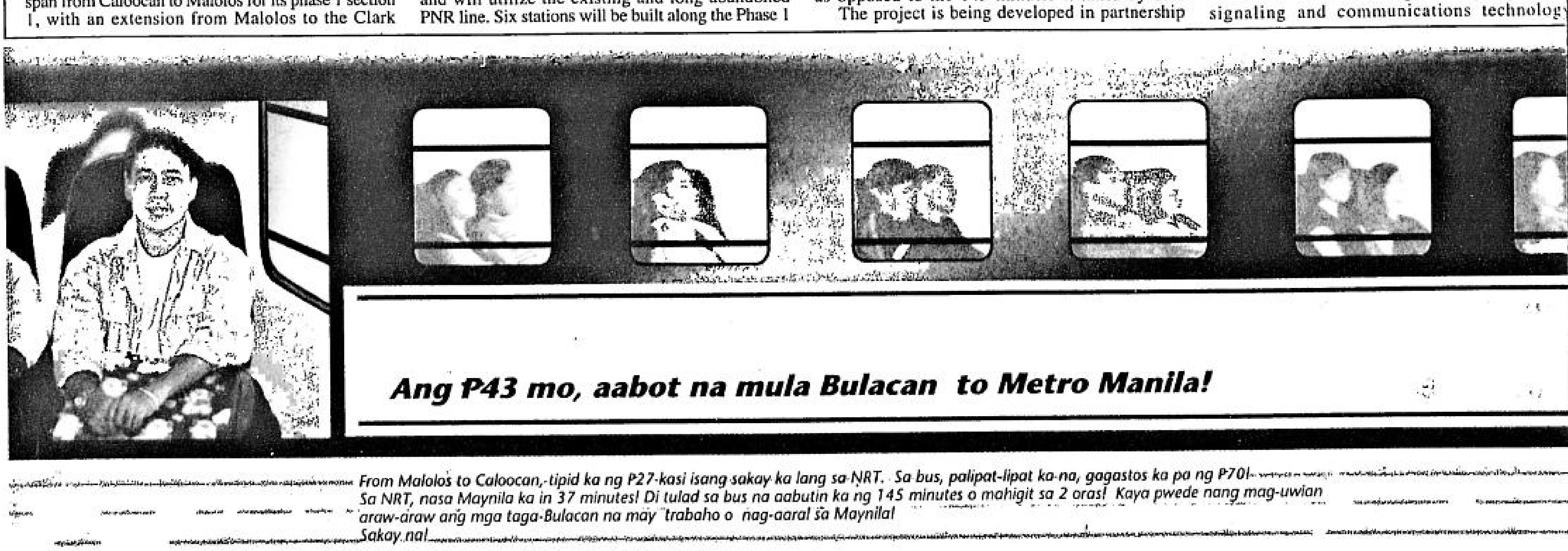
The NRT: A safe, convenient, affordable and efficient transportation system that would connect Metro Manila with the nearby provinces in the North.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has been calling for the concerned transportation agencies to fast-track the NRT project, a train system which will span from Caloocan to Malolos for its phase 1 section 1, with an extension from Malolos to the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga intended for its second section. Three more phases are envisioned later on, Phase 2 San Fernando, Pampanga to Subic, Phase 3 running to Fort Bonifacio Global City and Phase 4 to San Fernando, La Union.

Phase 1 Section 1 of the project covers 32.138 kms. of double track railway totalling 64 track-kms. and will utilize the existing and long abandoned PNR line. Six stations will be built along the Phase 1 Section 1 route namely Caloocan, Valenzuela, Marilao, Bocaue, Guiguinto and Malolos.

A total of 21 four-car trains will be plying these routes, moving 350,000 people everyday. The NRT will charge a reasonable ₱43 fare for the whole route compared to the current ₱70 bus fares. Travel time will only be 37 minutes from Caloocan-to-Malolos as opposed to the 145 minutes it takes by bus.

The project is being developed in partnership with the People's Republic of China, strengthenin the good relations between our two nations. Th PRC will provide a US$400Million loan out of th original US$503Million that is needed to fund th first section of the first phase. The US$503M wi be put to good use funding the project's man requirements of the Caloocan-to-Malolos track suc as: civil and track works; right-of-way acquisition signaling and communications technolog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Sakay na!

US vetoes Arab resolution seeking end to Gaza raids

UNITED NATIONS—The United States on Tuesday vetoed an Arab-backed draft resolution at the UN Security Council, which would have called on Israel to end its deadly military operation in the Gaza Strip.

Britain, Germany and Romania abstained from the vote, and the 11 other council members voted for it.

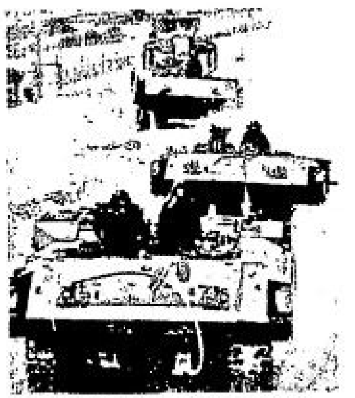
The resolution needed at least nine votes on the 15 member council, but also had to avoid a veto from the five permanent members—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

Algerian ambassador Abdallah Baali, whose nation had presented the draft on behalf of Arab members of the United Nations, said "the Security Council has once again failed the Palestinian people."

"It is a sad day for Palestine, it is a sad day for the cause of justice," he said.

The proposed resolution had called for "the immediate cessation of all military operations in the area of Northern Gaza and the withdrawal of the Israeli occupying forces from that area."

It also called for Israel to grant full access to humanitarian workers in Gaza, and urged the Jewish state and the Palestinian Authority to immediately implement commitments outlined in the so-called "roadmap" for peace.



ISRAELI army armored vehicles move from the Palestinian town of Beit Hanoun toward an Army staging area of Nissanit Wednesday. AP

It did not, however, refer to rocket attacks from Gaza by Palestinian militants onto Israeli soil that the current week-old operation is intended to quell.

US ambassador to the United Nations John Danforth seized on that point, blasting the draft resolution as "disingenuous" and saying it "lacks balance and credibility."

The draft "doesn't mention even one of the 450 Qassam rocket attacks launched against Israel over the past two years, it doesn't mention the 200 rockets launched this year alone," Danforth said.

Neither did it mention that Qassam rockets "are crude, imprecise devices of terror designed to kill civilians," Danforth added.

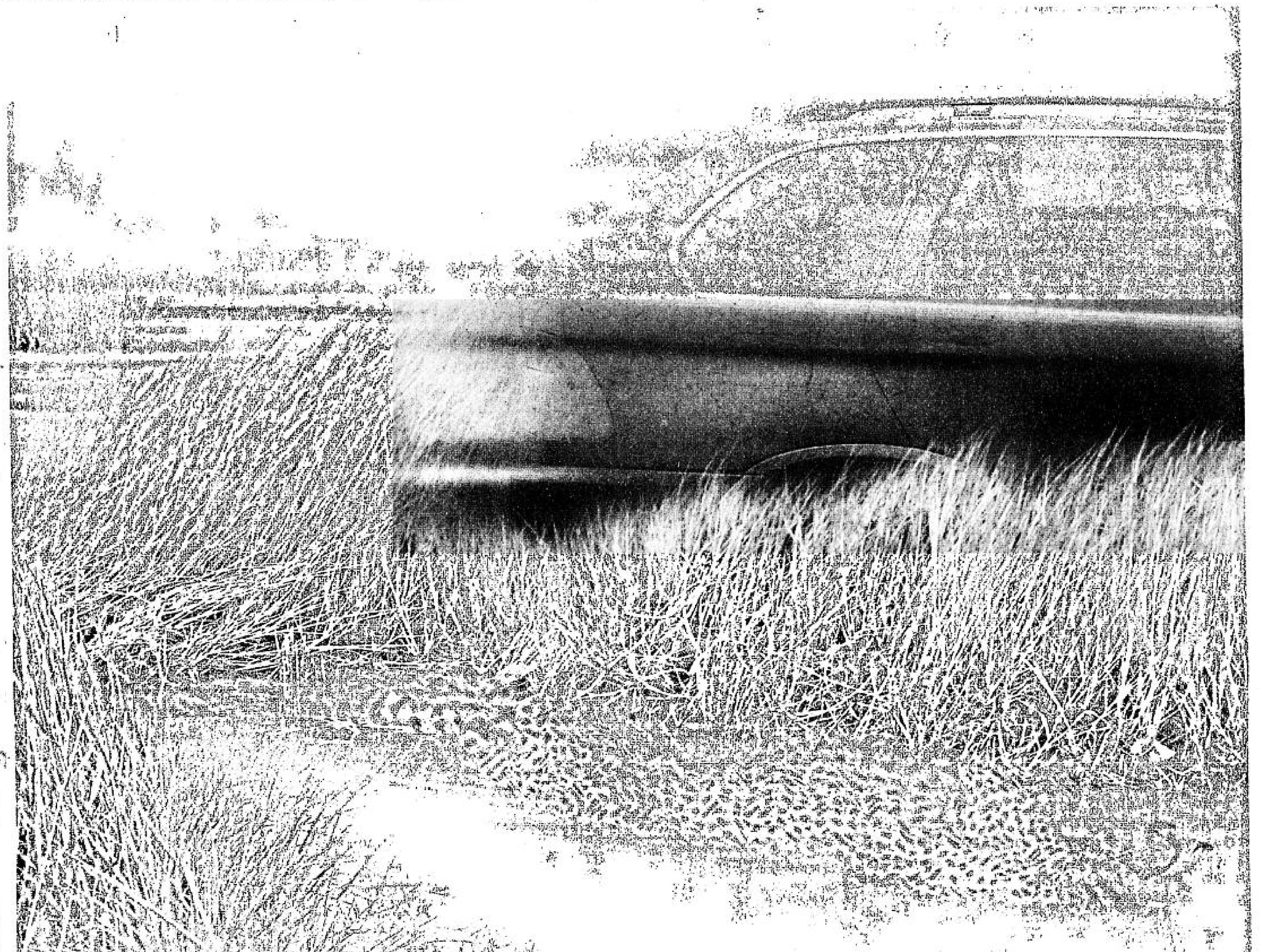
Danforth said civilian deaths, especially children, are "always tragic," but added: "when the rest of the world gangs up on Israel with an insidious silence about terrorism, it doesn't advance the cause of peace."

A resolution like this "emboldens terrorists, encourages counter attacks and contributes to the ultimate terrorist goal of derailing the peace process," Danforth said, urging the Security Council to "reverse the incessant stream of one anti-Israel resolution after the other and apply pressure evenhandedly on both sides to return to the road of peace."

France's ambassador to the United Nations, Jean-Marc de La Sabliere, said that his country supported the measure.

"It seemed to us essential that the council react quickly to the rapidly deteriorating situation in the northern Gaza Strip and launch an appeal to reason," De La Sabliere said, speaking in French.

France "recognizes Israel's right to defend itself against the odious terrorist acts that strike its population. Nevertheless, it should react with strict respect for international law," he added. *AFP*



Tracking creatures of speed keeps him going.

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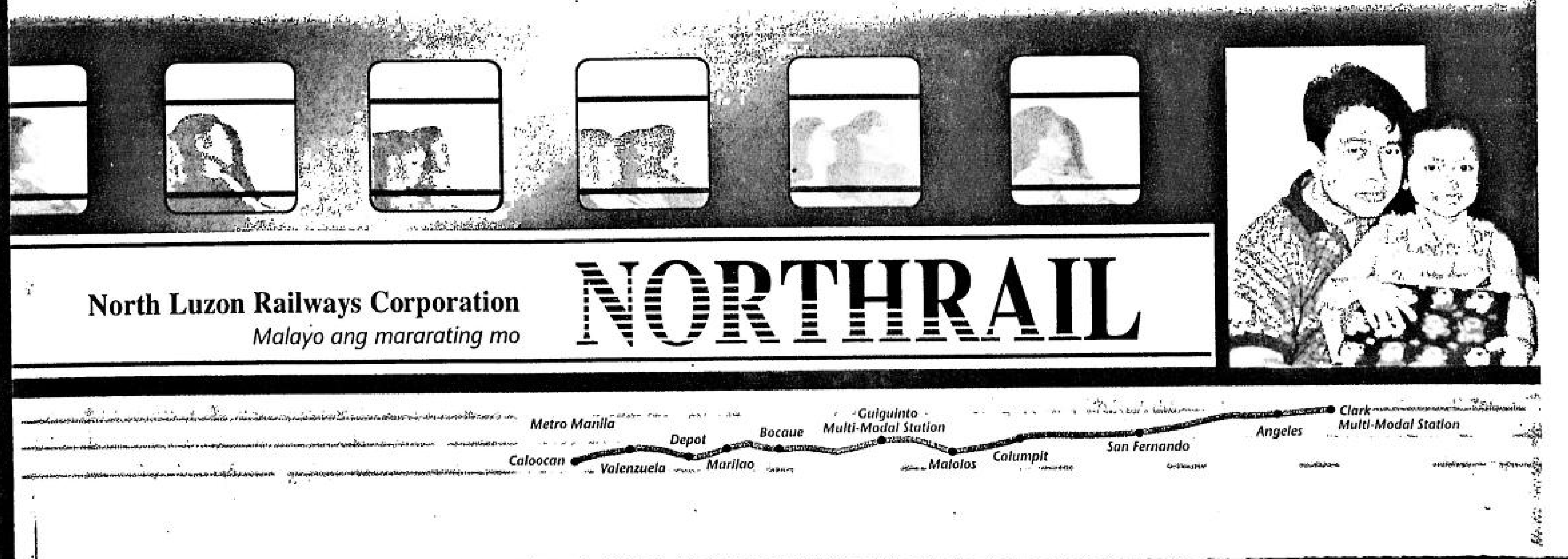
and rolling stock. Taxes and project management funds are also included in the budget. According to Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, the US$503M is reasonable and comparable to industry standards. The current cost of the project was chosen out of several proposals from different bidders. The Spanish and Japanese groups had submitted proposals pegged at $1.06 Billion for the first 40 kms. The Arroyo administration found the Chinese proposal to be the best option; for only US$503 Million, the whole 32.138 km-line to Malolos could be constructed. Moreover, the Chinese Export Import Bank, from which the funds are coming, has agreed to include in the second section of phase 1 building of rail tracks all the way to Clark, Pampanga, giving the government the free service of doing the feasibility study. This agreement was borne from dialogues between the President and Chinese President Hu Jintao during her 3-day visit to PRC. The additional rail extensions, however, are still subject to cost renegotiations.

The President said that another loan package for the other phases can still be negotiated. All in all, the government is pleased that the Chinese government was able to offer an affordable loan. The administration knows and believes that the cost of the NRT is a reasonable expense for such a worthy endeavor.

The North Rail Transit is a flagship project of President Arroyo's administration. Work on the NRT is expected to start in the first quarter of 2005 and is targeted to be finished by 2008. It is part of the envisioned Strong Republic Transit System that would link the various rail systems in the country. It provides a synergistic solution that straddles the focus of the President's 10-point program summarized in the acronym **BEAT THE ODS - B- Balance d Budget; E - Education for all; A - Automated elections; T - Transport Infrastructure; T - Terminate NPA and MILF hostilities; H - Heal the wounds of EDSA 1, 2, and 3; E - Electricity for all; O - Opportunities for livelihood and jobs; D - Decongestion of Metro Manila; and S - Subic and Clark alliance.**



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OPINION

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Shame game

EDITORIAL

CUSTOMS Commissioner George Jereos announced Monday that his office had compiled a list of 200 people and firms—mostly consignees, importers and customs brokers—suspected to have engaged in massive indirect or technical smuggling. He referred to the list as his agency's "order of battle" apparently to signify his readiness to lead a new war against smuggling, following his designation as the anti-smuggling czar by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

This is one war that the government needs to win decisively and fast if it intends to close the widening budget deficit and stave off a fiscal crisis. Former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, himself a former customs commissioner, has estimated that smuggling deprives the country of at least P175 billion annually—an amount that is almost equal to the projected deficit of about P200 billion for this year. Official data are enough to give an idea of the extent of the problem. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development noted that in 2003, the Philippines reported imports of $37.5 billion whereas its trading partners valued their total exports to the Philippines at $45.5 billion. To think that many exporters often understate the value of their goods to keep import duties at a minimum.

Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye said as part of the anti-smuggling drive, those on the Jereos list would be paraded before the public like kidnappers and drug traffickers. "We will make sure that smugglers are exposed in the same manner," Bunye vowed.

So the nation will witness another "shame campaign" that invites the Filipino people to condemn suspects before they get to face the courts. Is the administration perhaps saying that it cannot trust customs, the prosecution service and the courts to do what they must do to stop the rampant cheating that deprives the government of precious revenue, a crime that Bunye himself has labeled as "economic sabotage"?

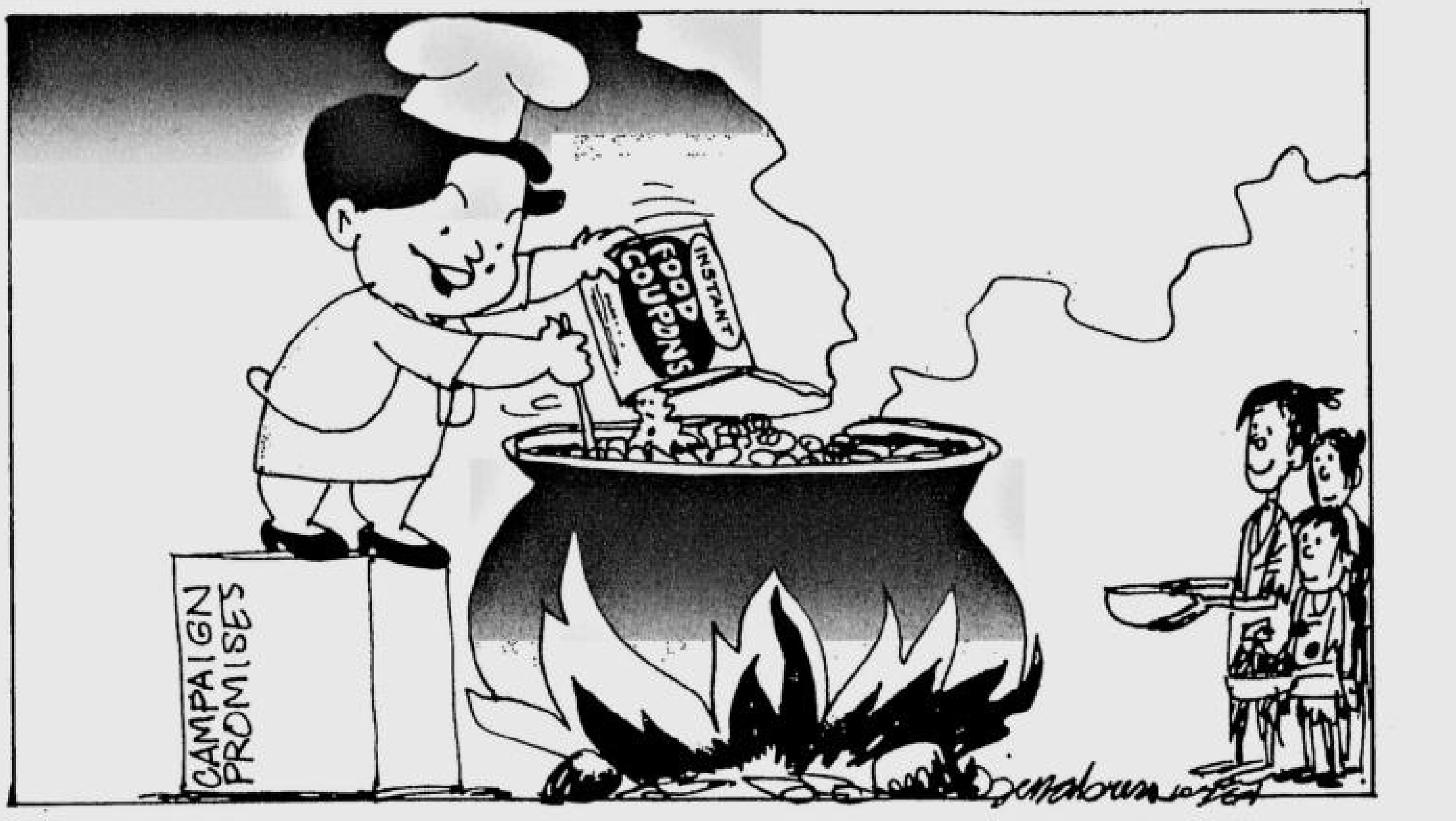
Any serious anti-smuggling drive cannot stop with merely identifying the smugglers. While that is obviously a necessary first step, it is but one small step in another journey of a thousand miles. If the customs bureau and Malacañang must absolutely put up a rogues' gallery, then it should go about it thoroughly. And that means also identifying the corrupt customs officials and employees who helped them, the government prosecutors who have the habit of losing smuggling cases, and the judges who are notorious for letting smugglers and their cohorts off the hook. It would be a serious mistake to think that this war can be won by merely listing the smugglers, without making sure that they are prosecuted and punished accordingly.

This is not the first time that an administration, this one included, has announced with great fanfare an anti-smuggling drive. The present state of affairs at customs tells much how those earlier initiatives have ended up.

The war on smuggling has many fronts and winning it requires a concerted effort among individuals and agencies, private and public. For instance, one big source of revenue losses is undervaluation of imports, which is often done by importers with the full cooperation of the manufacturers. Under the transaction value system adopted by the World Trade Organization and approved by Congress, customs officials can use the value declared in the port of origin as the basis for assessing the tariff to be imposed on imports. Thus, shoes made in China and declared to cost only 10 cents to 50 cents a pair can be sold in the Philippines after payment of ridiculously low duties. Clearly there is need to re-examine this system that only enriches the importers and their willing partners in the customs bureau.

And what about the politicians who meddle with affairs of the bureau? It is no secret that influential politicians go out of their way to push for the appointment of their protégés to the juiciest positions. There have also been cases when powerful politicians intervened for the release of certain imports, including luxury vehicles that were grossly undervalued to avoid payment of the correct duties. Will the bureau put them on the list and will Malacañang present them to the media?

Bunye has said that "big-time smugglers will not only be identified and prosecuted, they will be brought to jail." The whole nation waits with bated breath.



Not a stone upon a stone

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

FROM HER not-so-glorious retirement, former Election Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco tried to defend the indefensible. In an affidavit she submitted to the Senate blue ribbon committee, Tancangco insisted that MegaPacific's voting machines for the May elections were best for the polls. She also lashed the National Movement for Free Elections which sought her impeachment for incompetence. Tancangco said Namfrel's Jose Concepcion duped the public, as well as Comelec Chair Harriet Demetriou, with schemes to lease flawed counting machines from Toronto.

Is the lady serious? Or is she banking on our short memories? No issue, however compelling, can hold us for long. We shuffle on to the next headline, the seamier scam. "Scandal is not like bread," Nigerians say. "It's never in short supply."

People, however, remember the Supreme Court's 9-3-2 vote last January. That scrapped the MegaPacific deal.

The machines were "vulnerable to election fraud by means of just a few key strokes," the 101-page Court decision stated. The Comelec advanced P849,167,697 for flawed computers, fracturing its bidding rules.

"The illegal, imprudent and hasty action of the commission... desecrated legal and jurisprudential norms," the Court pointed out. The Comelec's stampede to buy the MegaPacific machines "cast serious doubt upon the poll body's ability and capacity to conduct automated elections."

The Court ordered Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo to recover the cash. He's also to "investigate the criminal liability of those involved."

Does Tancangco remember? Surely, she'll recall that the Supreme Court shredded a P6.5-billion contract with Photokina Marketing Corp. Tancangco awarded that contract for her "brainchild," the Voter Registration and Information System.

The Comelec signed although it had only roughly a fifth of the amount contracted for, the Court found out. "Null and void for lack of appropriation," it ruled.

Back in June 2002, a Cebu Daily News' editorial, titled "Our Gang of Four," warned that poll modernization, required by Republic Act 8436, would crumble because of the Comelec's incompetence. "Like their Chinese counterpart, our Gang of Four are all mediocrities," said CDN. Aside from Tancangco, the others were Rufino Javier, Ralph Lantion and Mehdol Sadain. These Estrada appointees resisted reforms, proposed by then Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo. Instead, they splurged on costly—and as it turns out, illegal—contracts.

As a result, the Comelec handcuffed over 40 million of us to primitive manual balloting in the May 2004 polls. Garbled registration lists disenfranchised thousands. Few got their identity cards on time. Massive failures require massive ineptitude.

Elections renew democratic institutions. But voting itself does not constitute democracy. Even the Marcos dictatorship staged periodic "elections" to scotch-tape a fig leaf on his "New Society" dictatorship. So does Myanmar, provided the generals tally the ballots.

Equally crucial is integrity of the count. After Pope John Paul II's election, a then young Jaime Cardinal Sin pointedly joshed Marcos' Comelec chair: "If you were in charge of counting votes at the Conclave, I'd have been elected pope."

Election reforms remain on the agenda of the country's "unfinished business," up there with budget deficits and spiraling public debt.

"The key element that saved the 2004 (electoral) process from becoming a disaster were the career officers and, above all, election officials at the ground level," says a respected former Comelec chair, Christian Monsod. "The vast majority did their jobs well, despite the unnecessary burden of poor leadership."

It's vital that a reelected President name commissioners who are impartial, competent and honest, Monsod suggested.

This is possible. It's been done before. We've had commissioners gifted with insight, skills and backbone in the past. Among them were the late Rodrigo Perez Jr., now Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., the PCGG's Haydee Yorac, Ramon Felipe and Harriet Demetriou.

Despite all odds, they ensured the ballot reflected the people's will. Their work resulted in political stability. But today, we have the most brittle Comelec we've had since the puppet Marcos dictatorship.

The President ought to decentralize the Comelec's operations. This would free career officials from hobbles clamped on by incompetent commissioners. That's for a start.

The integrity of Comelec leaders impinges on the survival of democratic governance itself. With her reelection, President Macapagal-Arroyo was gifted by abused but patient citizens with a rare second chance to repair the damage she inflicted on a vital democratic institution.

"That window of opportunity will not come again," we wrote then. The President accepted that "rare second chance" by reappointing two patently partisan election commissioners: Virgilio Garcillano and Manuel Barcelona.

"You did not know the time of your visitation," the Master from Galilee said in that most poignant of reproaches. But did the President forget the second part of that rebuke: In you, "not a stone will be left upon stone"?

* * *

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Hungry

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I FIRST heard it in a meeting with Sixto Roxas and several other economic experts. The crisis staring the country in the face, they said, was not really a fiscal or financial one, it was a social one. Specifically, it had to do with hunger. That was what the figures were showing, and that was more and more likely to happen over the next several months. It wasn't just that the banks would go kaput, it was that the people would go hungry.

Well, the papers have just confirmed what they've known all this time. The good news is that hunger reached its highest peak not during GMA's term but Erap's, or shortly after Erap's. That was in March 2001, a couple of months after Erap was overthrown, when the incidence of hunger reached 16.1 percent. Though that happened in GMA's time, we may safely conclude it was still the product of Erap's mismanagement, a euphemism for the mess he made of this country.

The bad news is that the second highest incidence of hunger happened during GMA's time. The even worse news is that it happened two months into GMA's second term. Hunger rose spectacularly. It did so as prices soared, putting food and other necessities beyond reach of the poor. I did say in a previous column that I have first-hand knowledge of it, having to buy stuff from the stores near us for my needs. The cost of eggs and Ibuprofen—yes, the latter is part of my needs—has climbed over the past months. While I personally have not gone hungry, I am hard put to make any savings now.

It is not hard to see why prices have risen dramatically over the last couple of months. I wasn't alone to warn so. The kind of election spending GMA unleashed to win a second term was bound to make it so. That was exactly what happened three decades ago when Marcos spent a fortune to get reelected. Three months after he won a second term, prices soared and the peso plunged. A development that spawned the violent rallies that came to be called the First Quarter Storm of 1970. Uncannily, GMA's reelection is following that pattern more and more. Prices have gone up, and only a couple of weeks ago, the peso teetered over the edge and fell. To what abyss, we can only guess.

As it is, however, hunger, or even the specter of its becoming even more universal, is not the real crisis. The real crisis is that this hunger is happening alongside the GMA administration's profligacy. It is the sheer contrast between a people going hungry and government going blind that makes for a social volcano, one threatening forthcoming, if not imminent, eruption. Hunger is just the magma in the bowels of the volcano, government's indifference to it is the force roiling it. But this one doesn't resemble the start of Marcos' second presidential term at all, it resembles the twilight days of martial law, when a hungry people beheld Imelda throwing cakes at them.

You can't find clearer proof of GMA's profligacy than that she borrowed more than Fidel Ramos and Erap combined did in eight years, and has nothing to show for it. Except a people going hungry. And if that isn't proof enough, she supplies something more visible to the naked eye in retaining Winston Garcia, the government official who likes to buy paintings, in the GSIS, and appointing Ramon Revilla, the ex-movie star and ex-senator who contributed to society only when he became ex in both respects, to the Public Estates Authority.

Garcia I will always remember as the fellow who spoke before the showing of Fides Cuyugan's and Ryan Cayabyab's opera on Juan Luna last year. He talked interminably, defending the GSIS' controversial purchase of Juan Luna's "Parisian Life" from Christie's, sparking a spasm of coughing from his audience. The coughing reached epidemic proportions, putting some even on the verge of throwing up, but the fellow never got the hint. No, he is not going to resign from the GSIS out of *delicadeza*.

I did say during the campaign that GMA was by no means the "lesser evil." And that turning a blind eye to cheating (the Comelec existed for the purpose) and the wanton use of people's money to campaign (you saw nothing but huge billboards of GMA grinning at the world from Aparri to Jolo) to stop the "greater evil" of FPJ winning was bound to produce a truly monumental evil, the likes of which we have never known before. That is happening even as we speak: armed with an apparent mandate (apparent because most Filipinos, if Ibon and SWS are right, do not think GMA won the elections), GMA now regards the presidency as an entitlement rather than an obligation.

The contrast between a people going hungry and a government going blind has produced a nasty consequence of late. That is the rash of crime. It is not merely the quantity of it, though that is startling enough in itself. It is the quality of it, or the boldness with which criminals are plying their trade. That is the other thing that reminds me of the twilight years of martial law. That was how things were in 1984 and 1985, when bandits were robbing banks like the days of the old American West.

The murders of a Today business reporter and a Cebu network staffer testify to the growing mayhem. That is only partly explained by the criminals' newfound fondness for cell phones. It is explained also by the criminals' newfound sense of freedom. The boldness with which they are plying their trade you see in the way they are holding up eateries, particularly the open ones beside or on sidewalks. One of our favorite eating places, the Persian restaurant along Timog Avenue, was held up this way some weeks ago. Diners were relieved of their wallets and cell phones. Thankfully, no one died, though one was shot in the leg for resisting. Diners lost their appetites afterward.

That's another way of going hungry.

Local gov'ts should lead in planting for subsistence

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to issue food coupons as a means of alleviating hunger among the nation's poor is most laudable. But many fear that the coupons could end up in the hands of politicians who will distribute them to their followers, leaving nothing for these who are genuinely poor. We've seen this happen many times in the past, e.g., with the Pinatubo relief funds.

That hunger stalks the land in varying severity was evident even before the SWS survey. A few years ago when Erda Tech, the vocational/technical high school founded by Fr. Pierre Tritz for very poor families in Metro Manila, was new, some of its young students would faint in the mornings. It was discovered eventually that some kids were coming to school without eating breakfast, and when asked why, they said it was not their turn to eat. The problem disappeared after Erda-Tech put up a feeding program funded by generous donors.

* * *

Sen. Juan Flavier quickly blamed the rising hunger incidence on the population problem. This may be true in Metro Manila, which is frightfully overcrowded, but this is not true in Mindanao. Anyone who has traveled to Mindanao can see how vast its land area is but it is sparsely populated, especially the countryside. In fact, this is true in most of the country's rural areas, as I noted during a recent trip to Leyte.

Business leader Sergio Ortiz-Luis has rightly analyzed that the problem is not so much the burgeoning population, but the poor distribution of resources. He opined that we need to disperse people away from the slums of Metro Manila, where they suffer hunger and joblessness, to the rural areas. This can be done by setting up industries in those places. This requires, however, among other things, a stable peace and order condition, which still has to be realized in some areas of Mindanao. Which is why we welcome the assistance of Malaysia in working out a lasting peace there.

* * *

In this country, where the soil is so fertile that any plant one sticks into it will grow and there is so much land, it's a crime for people to go hungry. Going hungry in the slums is understandable, as there is hardly any place to plant, but even in the cities there are still many vacant lots where people can plant for their daily sustenance stuff like *kamote, kamoteng kahoy, kangkong* and various vegetables. More so in the provinces. To go hungry in Mindanao is criminal!

The local governments should relaunch a new "green revolution" at the barangay level, with the battle cry, "Fight hunger." In tiny Taiwan, they plant vegetables even in sidewalks because they have no land. Here there's land everywhere, but people don't plant to live. The LGUs should lead the crusade against hunger. Paging Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes.

* * *

The government's predicament in the Naia 3 case was dramatized recently when its representatives, including some very high-ranking officials, were locked out of the mothballed airport by the airport's builder. A Piatco spokesperson said that while there was an earlier agreement with Naia general manager Alfonso Cusi to allow the officials to inspect the Naia facilities, the company changed its mind, fearing it might affect its arbitration cases against the government in Singapore and Washington.

Piatco's defiance has stung the administration and its lawyer, retired Justice Florentino Feliciano, hints that the government could force its way through, since it owns the land on which the terminal is built. The problem is that the building was constructed by Piatco/Fraport entirely with private investments, and not a single centavo from the government. Thus, the use of force to enter private property could present additional legal problems.

* * *

Then, too, there's the terrible image of the government, especially after visiting former Prime Minister Mahathir has admonished that the country treat foreign investors "fairly" (Piatco is partly owned by the Frankfort Airport Authority). The voiding of the contract with Piatco/Fraport in 2002 was regarded very unfavorably abroad. (Henry Schumacher, head of the European Chamber of Commerce, recently said his group wants that airport opened.) The claim that there are 42 major defects in Naia 3 is not plausible, considering that the two foreign construction firms involved, Takenaka of Japan and Fraport, are big and reputable.

I sure hope the two conflicting parties find a solution soon—for that airport is badly needed.

* * *

This Saturday, Oct. 9, the Asian Cultural Council Philippines Foundation will sponsor a special racing event at the Manila Jockey Club, San Lazaro Leisure Park, in Carmona, Cavite, to raise funds for grants to deserving Filipino artists. This is known as the First Filipino Artists' Cup. Since the early 1960s, the Asian Cultural Council has consistently awarded young Filipino artists travel and study tours to the US and recently to other Asian countries, in order to train them and expand their horizons. Among the former recipients who are now icons in the cultural field are National Artists in Music Lucrecia Kasilag and Jose Maceda, National Artist in Visual Arts Jose Joya, and Magsaysay Awardee and Peta founder Cecile Guidote-Alvarez.

* * *

Led and organized by two high-powered former diplomats, former Ambassador to Madrid Isabel Wilson, who chairs the Council Philippines, and former Ambassador to Geneva Narcisa Escaler, the First Filipino Artists' Cup will be the newest addition to a long line of glittering charity events held at the Manila Jockey Club, which is headed by lawyer Alfonso Reyno Jr. The event, sponsored by various companies such as Smart Telecom, will also feature a video documentary depicting the role of past national and influential Filipino artists and their present-day counterparts, who have enriched—and are enriching—the Filipino soul. Let's support the First Filipino Artists' Cup.

The physiology of hunger

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

HUNGER is a very powerful and heavily loaded word. What is hunger?

"Hunger stalks 13 percent of Pinoy households," the INQUIRER's banner recently announced. The lead sentence said, "Hunger rose to record levels in Metro Manila and Mindanao just two months into the second term of President Macapagal-Arroyo."

One out of every seven (15.1 percent) household heads polled by the Social Weather Stations in August said his or her family had nothing to eat at least once in the last three months, triple the number of the previous year.

I don't know whether these families missed one meal, or they had nothing to eat for one whole day during that three-month period.

A family missing one meal, even if it was only once in the last three months, because there was no money for food means a whole brood went hungry at some point. The thought of not finding food for the next meal must have added to the anxiety.

The poor know what hunger is in the most physical sense—as an intense need for food, as a weakening of the body for lack of it. Food is the first in the hierarchy of needs of all living creatures. Physical hunger is the first need that must be sated.

Experts often discuss hunger in so macro and so global a way. On their side of the divide, the non-hungry discuss the politics and economics of hunger. The spiritually inclined speak about prayer as a hunger. The health buff who has a great horror for obesity watches out for that pang, that wicked craving.

What happens inside the body when one is hungry? Not that the hungry poor care to know, for they know how it feels already. But it behooves us to realize that hunger is as physiological as blood circulating and breathing in and breathing out during meditation. Hunger is not some diffused, nameless feeling. It is real.

Here is some pop physiology I learned from my readings.

Most people think of hunger as something that is felt in the stomach that's gone empty. We talk about *humihilab ang tiyan*. Indeed there is some turbulence of the acids in there and a stomach left empty for prolonged periods could end up with ulcers. But hunger is more than *hilab*. Ever felt faint because you skipped breakfast? That is physiological hunger. It's different from psychological hunger or craving for, say, comfort food like dried fish on a rainy day. The psychology of hunger has more to do with incentives and taste preferences. But that is another story.

That feeling of faintness that causes people to drop to the floor during morning Mass is hunger in the truest sense. Hunger does not originate from stomach pangs. The physiology of hunger is influenced by body chemistry (insulin and glucose), the brain (hypothalamus), the so-called set point, and the basal metabolic rate.

The hypothalamus gland is mainly responsible for the feeling of hunger and satiation. The lateral hypothalamus (LH) brings on hunger. When the body is deprived of food, its blood sugar goes down and the LH releases orexin, a hunger-triggering hormone. The ventromedial hypothalamus, on the other hand, is responsible for depressing hunger. When the VH is stimulated, an animal will stop eating, but when destroyed, the eating will be unstoppable.

These complementary areas in the hypothalamus influence how much glucose is converted into fat and how much is available to fuel activity and minimize hunger. The brain system monitors the body's state and reports to the hypothalamus, which then sends the information to the frontal lobes which decide behavior. Go, get fried rice or to-die-for chocolate cake.

The LH and VH have a way of altering the body's weight thermostat, which predisposes the body to keep a particular weight level called set point. This makes the body adjust to the food intake, the energy output and its own basal metabolic rate (BMR).

BMR is the rate at which the body burns calories for energy depending on the fat cells, hormones and metabolism. Blessed are those who burn faster.

When the poor are constantly feeling hungry in the absence of food, it is not just the glucose level that is sending signals, their bodies are also screaming for the wide array of nutrients they have been deprived of. Think of pregnant mothers who crave for food because their bodies and babies need it.

When hunger is discussed in relation to poverty, it is often used interchangeably with malnutrition, starvation and famine. But these are four different stages and situations. Malnutrition is the inadequate intake of any of the nutrients required by the body.

So yes, the poor's hunger is, first and foremost, as physiological as what the books say. The politics and economics of it are beyond many of them. There is so much to learn. And change.

* * *

hungerbanquet.org. Visit this Oxfam website and take your seat at the "banquet" table. Learn about hunger from the point of view of those who experience it every day. Discover the reasons why hunger exists today. It's very interactive, with real human names and faces from real places.

Another website on hunger has a "dining philosophers game." In front of each one is a bowl of rice and between each one is one chopstick. Before one can take a bite, he must have two chopsticks—one taken from his left, the other from his right. Picture it? They must find a way to share chopsticks so they all get to eat.

I'm going back to the game after I finish this column.

Hunger is not a game, but sadly, it has been the outcome of power games.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

So help us God

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

WHEN Jonathan and Ed Malaya first approached me, I thought I'd simply provide them with some information and leave it at that. The brothers had embarked on a book of speeches, the first comprehensive book on the inaugural addresses of our presidents, following Leticia Ramos Shahani's and Consuelo Fonacier's efforts in 1973. The brothers Malaya were generous enough to ask me to dinner to discuss their book, and from the moment we sat down to discuss it, I was entranced by their vision for their book.

First of all, they were committed to put in all the inaugural addresses of our presidents, including the brief statements that marked the induction into office (under tragic circumstances) of Presidents Elpidio Quirino and Carlos Garcia. Second, and most important of all, they committed to the hard and stringent research required to come up with truly useful capsule biographies of our presidents. An example of the rigor of their research was one thorny question: when did Elpidio Quirino die? Turns out, he died on Feb. 29. Then, to put things in perspective, they added some economic data to help readers put each administration and the country at the time, in proper perspective.

The work of the Malaya brothers is so interesting, and, to my mind so useful, that I ended up being the editor of their book. Much of my time was spent helping them track down elusive documents and verifying facts. It is a testament to the open-mindedness and intellectual generosity of these two brothers that they willingly adopted most of my recommendations, including a vast number of finicky points. The first such point was my insistence on "President of the Philippines" as the only legitimate, constitutional title for our presidents since 1935 ("President of the Republic of the Philippines" may sound grander, but it is not the sanctioned title for the president; Marcos, in looking back to the Japanese Occupation government, adopted it simply because it made his title longer and thus, more impressive).

Another persnickety thing was to correct the stupid innovation of the Marcos-era National Historical Institute, which in effect changed the names of our presidents. According to the rigid authoritarian insistence on conformity of that era, everyone—bar none—had to have a middle initial: which is why they created characters such as "Emilio F. Aguinaldo" and "Elpidio R. Quirino," when no such public figures ever existed, much less signed such names on their official documents, oaths of office, proclamations, or orders. Any person or body that cannot respect another person's name cannot be trusted to have integrity when it comes to any other fact. Our society places great importance on names, and when a president chooses to sign official documents as "Diosdado Macapagal," one can assume—and respect the fact—that is how he wants to be known to posterity, not as "Diosdado P. Macapagal."

The Malaya brothers have come up with one of those books that are so concise, yet so full of facts, so balanced and so useful, that it deserves to be called essential. Published by Anvil Publishing, the book is affordable enough to be considered a basic requirement for anyone studying Philippine history, or politics, or governance. It is a useful book for students of rhetoric; it is the sort of book that every family should have in its home.

I say this not only because the book serves as an extremely handy reference, but also because reading it should help in the process of building good citizens. The reader should not accept each president's rhetoric hook, line and sinker as Gospel truth; rather he should read each inaugural address as a representation of the nation's aspirations at various points in time. For our elders, they know all too well just how successfully—or how badly—each president managed the country during his/her term. For those of us who are young, it affords a glimpse of the aspirations of the past, and how they tie in with the aspirations of the present. If many of the speeches end up informing us that too little has changed for the better, they will show, as well, that a great deal has already been done.

Perhaps, the simplest lesson is the most useful. In his inaugural in 1935, Manuel L. Quezon declaimed that "a new nation will arise, not out of the ashes of the past, but the standing materials of the living present." Thirty years later, Diosdado Macapagal proclaimed, in his inaugural, that he merely wanted to "add a stone to the edifice." This rhetorical, and in many ways, genuine dedication to the concept of building slowly on what had come before, was swept aside by Marcos' thundering of his desire to build "a new society." But what is new is not necessarily better. Painstaking progress is what nation-building requires; and it is only the presidents who do not have such a low opinion of their country and people that they think everything can be—or should be—rebuilt with one speech, that keep faith with their people.

The Malaya brothers' book, "So help us, God," is a mirror of Philippine history, society, politics and governance. We may not like what we see, but at least there is a mirror with which to see ourselves.

"So help us, God" will be launched on Oct. 8 at Club Filipino with former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos as guests of honor, along with representatives of most of our past presidents. It will be available at all National Bookstores and other bookstores by this weekend.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Dream house

YOUNG BLOOD

Kimberly Urmeneta

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I HAVE been planning to build a house on a piece of land in Zambales inherited by my Mom. It is a dream that I want to see fulfilled a few years from now. I often pray that I will get a high-paying job so I can start building my dream house. I believe that if you want to make your dream a reality, you start working on it from the day you thought about it. Otherwise, with every day you let pass, the dream fades away.

One Tuesday afternoon, after a busy day in the office, I called my best friend on the phone. We started the conversation by talking about some small concerns and soon found ourselves talking about my dream of building a house in the province, a house that I will eventually transform into a home which my family can consider a hideaway where peace and harmony reside.

My desire to have a house of our own intensified when my brother encountered a crisis in his life. He became a drug dependent. His frequent use of shabu had started to affect his sanity and his behavior. We brought him to a rehabilitation center, but the doctors refused him admission after he failed a psychiatric test. Instead they advised us to bring him to the National Center for Mental Health and promised to take him in once he was psychologically fit to be in rehab.

At the NCMH, he was admitted to a ward, referred to as ACIS where patients with "minor" psychological problems are confined. There, they are put under the observation of physicians and given medication until they become better. Patients sent to ACIS are kept there for a maximum of five days. Before a patient can be released, he will be interviewed by a doctor to determine if there has been any improvement in his behavior. If he passes, he will be sent home although he might be asked to continue with his medication. Otherwise, he will be transferred to another ward, which they call the Pavilion.

After spending five days at ACIS, my brother did not pass the interview, meaning that he was not getting better. His dependence on drugs had altered his behavior, his attitudes, his perceptions and his personality as a whole.

After he was given a physical check up, we were told that he had to be brought to the Pavilion. We walked to the admission section and remained seated for a while. When our turn came, we began our slow march to the Pavilion.

It was a really quiet and eerie place and I was overcome with pity for my brother. He thought he was already going home but in fact he was being sent to a ward where more serious cases were being treated. When we told him that he had to stay behind, tears fell from his eyes. Probably he was feeling lonely and rejected by his own family, which was not the case since all we wanted was to make him well again. He got even more depressed when he remembered that it was Father's Day because he would not be able to greet my father who could not make it to the hospital to visit him that day. And sadly, no visitors are allowed at the Pavilion.

When the nurse finished taking down information about my brother, she told him to head for the ward. I took the opportunity to assure him that we loved him and told him sending him there was not easy but it was something we had to do. It was the best way we knew to make him well.

I asked him if there was anything he wanted to say to Dad, but he didn't say a word. Instead, tears just trickled down his cheeks. It was the most painful sight I had ever witnessed and I felt drained emotionally afterwards. It was not easy to see my brother longing for our father's company as well as wishing badly that we could stay longer.

I went away from that place, telling myself that my brother would be all right very soon. Then a small voice reminded me that every single moment, every single thing that happens in our life has a purpose. I knew that God made our family pass through this trial for a reason that only He knew. I believed that God was using my brother to make us see that some parts of our lives needed repair and that some our relationships within the family needed to be fixed.

To this day, I continue to pray that God will look after my brother particularly for the duration of his stay at the Pavilion. Each and every member of our family is hoping that he will soon be well enough to be released so that he can finally be brought to the rehabilitation center for treatment. Every aspect of his life needs mending and healing: the physical, the emotional, the social and the spiritual.

I wish that by the time he gets well, I can already bring him to the home I am planning to build. There, I believe he can start life all over again. In that home, he will no longer feel insecure, unprotected and unloved. I have this vision and I intend to make it happen for my brother.

Kimberly Urmeneta, 25, works for a telecoms firm and is taking her MBA at De La Salle University.

THEY SAID

Senseless killings

"I wish the killers of my husband will go into deep self-examination of why they commit senseless killings if they are truly fighting for social justice for the poor."

—Veronica Tabara, whose husband Arturo's assassination was blamed on communist rebels, his former comrades

Hair fashion

"The way we wear our hair is a fashion statement. And our fashion choices do not affect our intellectual capacity."

—Pol Sena, Far Eastern University student and Sandigan Party Alliance spokesperson, protesting his school's policy disallowing long hair for men and "outlandish" hairstyles

Calling

"For all you know, some have the calling and need to hear it from us."

—Estelito Villegas of the San Carlos Formation Center, on their program promoting priesthood among high school students

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OWWA omnibus policies unjust

MIGRANTE International decries the Arroyo administration's latest attempt to foist on the overseas Filipino workers the burden of the fiscal crisis.

For a sector reeling from human rights violations and suffering from this administration's gross criminal neglect of their plight, service, not taxes, is our immediate call; and justice for migrant victims of abuse is our cry.

This year alone, many jaw-dropping human rights violations have been committed against migrant workers. Three Filipina domestic workers allegedly fell to their deaths in Lebanon within a three-month period. More than 3,000 OFWs, including 50 toddlers, infants and other minors, are languishing in foreign prisons. Around 500 maltreated OFWs are "stranded," and living like sardines in an OWWA-run shelter in Kuwait; and, of course, there was Angelo de la Cruz.

But instead of affirming a commitment to strengthen its programs for OFWs, this administration has dared to float proposals to tax them. Instead of working to expand its services for migrants, it continues to implement the anti-migrant omnibus policies passed last Sept. 19, 2003 by the board of trustees (headed by Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas) of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, amid a shroud of secrecy. They were crafted without genuine inputs from migrant workers, and have resulted in the disenfranchisement of countless OFWs and their families—even though the entire OWWA budget comes from the pockets of OFWs through the forced $25-membership fee.

The omnibus policies institutionalize the collection of this fee from OFWs (instead of employers) and they limit "membership" to those with "active contracts." Their implementation also signaled the loss of some services, like repatriation for migrants in distress, assistance to those with mental illness, and the suspension of OWWA's General Financial Assistance Program.

The omnibus policies manifest President Macapagal-Arroyo's criminal neglect of migrants and their families. The setup is worse than a "user-pay system" because even if the OFWs had paid the membership fee, there is no guarantee they will get the benefits or services due them—since when an OFW's contract is terminated, he/she is no longer considered an OWWA member.

We therefore demand: Scrap the OWWA omnibus policies! Services, not taxes! No to the OFW tax and other unjust Gloria tax measures! Justice for all migrants and their families!

—MAITA SANTIAGO,
secretary general,
Migrante International,
49 Mayaman cor Matahimik Sts.,
UP Village, Quezon City

Education for voters

I FULLY agree with Justice Isagani Cruz in his Aug. 22 column, "When will we grow up?" especially when he stated that "the most tragic defeat of Philippine democracy is the stupidity of the electorate."

I still recall that time I was the grand knight of the Knight of Columbus, Council 6428, when we put up billboards urging the electorate: "Go out and vote," "Vote Wisely," "You deserve the government officials you vote for."

I wish to suggest the following to raise the quality of elections in our country:

1. Since officials and employees of the Commission on Elections have practically nothing to do after every election, they should engage in a massive and intensified educational campaign to raise the level of our elections.
2. The Comelec should get the cooperation and support of non-government organizations like the Jaycees, Rotaries, Lions, church organizations, etc., which I believe are more than willing to help and assist in this undertaking.
3. Require all Comelec registrars to hold a "candidates' forum" in their respective areas of responsibility before every election.
4. Enlist the cooperation and support of the Department of Education in the educational information campaign for honest, clean and peaceful elections.
5. Return to the two-party system.
6. Enforce strictly the election laws.

—HERIBERTO A. BAUTISTA,
3 Tavera, Pozorrubio,
Pangasinan

Gong back to one's country

THIS is in reaction to your editorial, "Dawn," of Sept. 25.

Several years ago, while working and living in Jakarta, I learned of a multinational group that was keeping statistics of Indonesians who had gone to the United States and Europe for advanced studies, work and extended visits. The "returnee rate" was 99 percent! The majority of those who were asked about their reason for going back to Indonesia simply expressed their love and preference for *tanah air*, or their native land and water.

I have no doubt that this inherent attachment to the motherland, coupled with their country's newfound democracy, will help Indonesians propel their country to even greater heights.

—PERLA LIMBAGA MANAPOL,
6073 Palma St., Poblacion, Makati City

Napocor: Let truth be told

WE wish to clarify the following:

The request of National Power Corp. president and chief executive officer Rogelio M. Murga, which was only granted by President Macapagal-Arroyo last Sept. 14, was to retire. He neither resigned nor was he asked to resign. Murga first expressed to the President this desire to retire last May, before June 30 when all department secretaries, heads of agencies and top government officials were requested to tender their courtesy resignations. His reason: he wants to spend more time with his family.

Murga will be leaving behind a legacy of reforms that will have great impact in the overall operations of Napocor. These include programs to increase and further improve efficiency, lowering costs and streamlining operations. The President has requested Murga to finish these programs before he goes out of Napocor. Her order is very explicit. His retirement is effective Dec. 31, 2003, which means he has still three months in government service.

Napocor has admitted time and again that it has been suffering from operational losses due to its artificially low rates, the high level of subsidy it provides to its customers across grids, and missionary electrification, among others.

Napocor has also experienced political interventions in its operations. These interventions have great impact on our costs, especially in our collection of payments from delinquent customers.

Napocor's problems cannot be, and should not be, blamed on one person or entity. The financial difficulties it has been experiencing cut across several administrations. In all the debates on Napocor's debts, what has been ignored is the fact that policies are not formulated in and by Napocor. This state-owned utility merely implements policies emanating from the executive branch, legislature and Napocor board.

Admittedly, Napocor's fiscal condition bears heavily on the national government. On this, we wish to reiterate that there are factors beyond our control that contributed to this condition, e.g., market forces and movements. But as to the factors of which we do have control, these we are trying to address now through the Electric Power Industry Reform Act.

Napocor welcomes all inquiries into our books, by the Senate, House or any other body, for that matter. We wish to assure the public that as a government-owned and -controlled corporation, Napocor is subject to the scrutiny of all government auditing and regulatory bodies.

What we are requesting from the media is an objective reporting and discussion of Napocor issues, devoid of any editorializing and sensationalism. After all, we share the same objective, that is, for the truth to be told.

—DENNIS S. GANA,
manager,
Corporate Communication,
National Power Corp.,
cor. Quezon Avenue and Agham Road,
Diliman, Quezon City

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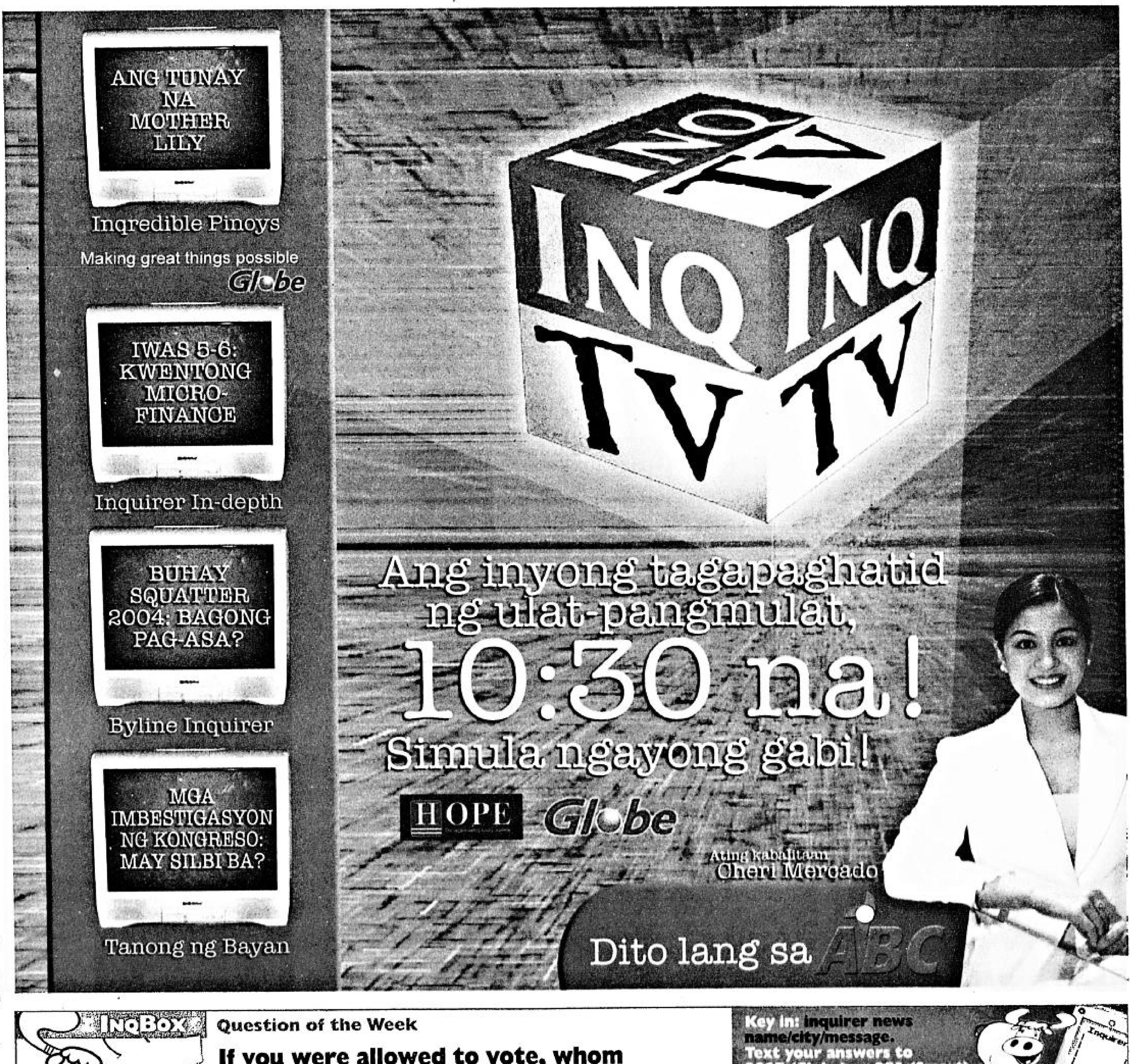
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INQBOX

Win this *Inquirer T-shirt!

Question of the Week

If you were allowed to vote, whom would you vote for: John Kerry (Democrat) or George Bush (Republican)? Why?

Texters hus messages R printd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wiL each recelv an *Inquirer t-shirt! ()*

Key in: inquirer news name/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
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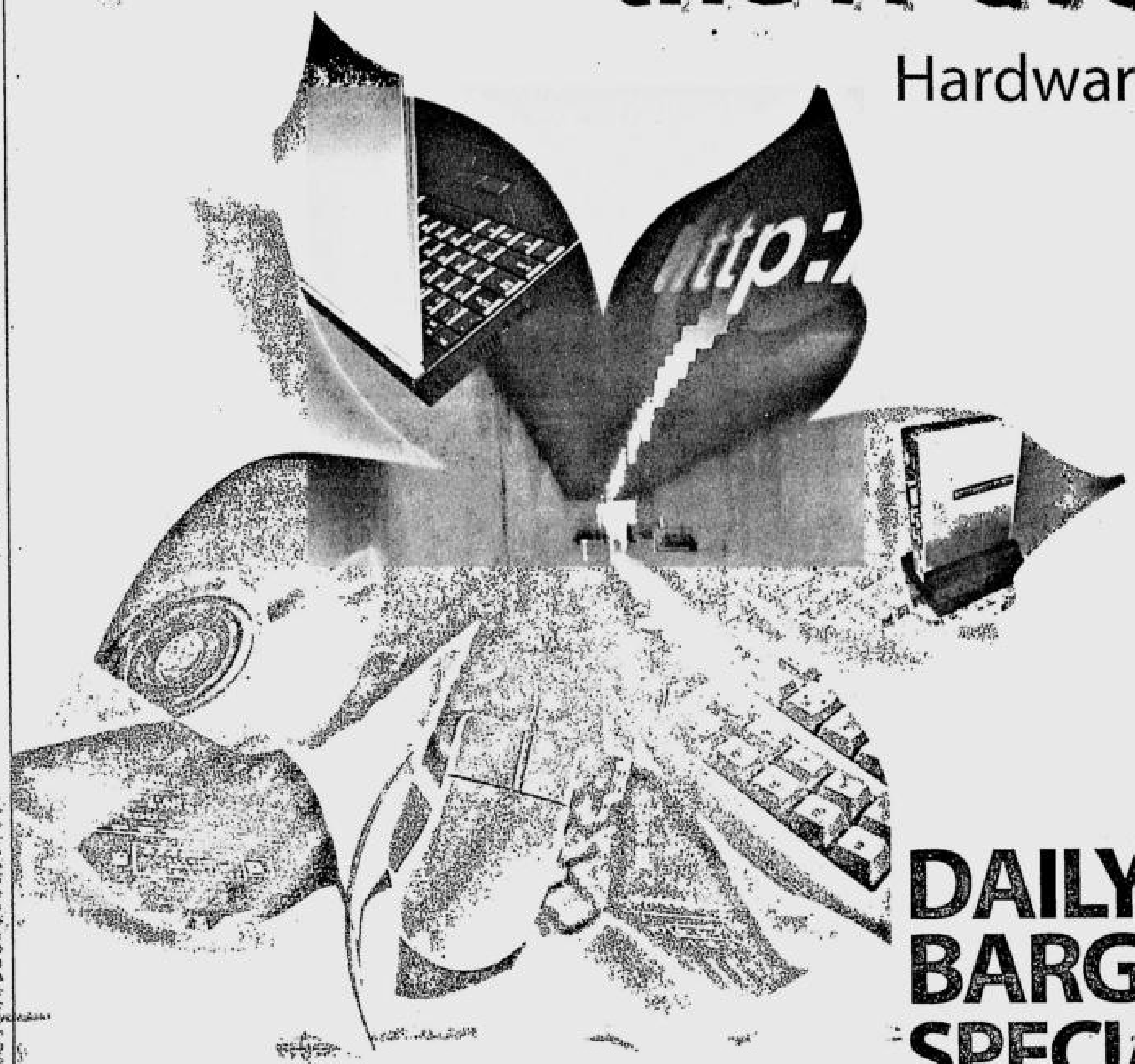

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Schedule of Activities

Day 1 Thursday 07 October **TRADE VISITORS**	**Day 2** Friday 08 October **GENERAL PUBLIC**	**Day 3** Saturday 09 October **GENERAL PUBLIC**
10:00 a.m. – Exhibit Open 10:30 a.m. – Opening Ceremonies 04:00 p.m. – Raffle Prize Draw 07:30 p.m. – Exhibit Closes	10:00 a.m. – Exhibit Open 04:00 p.m. – Raffle Prize Draw 07:30 p.m. – Exhibit Closes	10:00 a.m. – Exhibit Open 04:00 p.m. – Raffle Prize Draw 05:00 p.m. – Judging and Awarding of Animation Challenge 07:30 p.m. – Exhibit Closes

Animation Challenge

The Animation Challenge aims to develop and give recognition and opportunity to the country's multimedia and animation industries by providing a venue for digital artists and illustrators to showcase their creative and technical talents.

The challenge is the production of a 2D or 3D Macromedia Flash™ animation of iMouse, the contest mascot, of not more than 60 seconds, which may include voice and/or music, and can deal with any theme – drama, documentary, action, fiction, comedy, commercials, or experimental.

Sponsored by Macromedia, contest details may be downloaded, with entries uploaded, through **animation.yehey.com**.

Free Transport Service

Transport services are available to visitor attendees, free of charge, on a daily basis, during event days. Transport service terminal is at the Ayala Center Parking Lot, near Park Square 1, Pasay Road (side of Rapide' Service Center).

Schedule of Free Transport Services:

a. Shuttle departing from the Ayala Center Terminal
Starting at 10:00 a.m. with time intervals of 15 - 30 minutes until 7:00 p.m.

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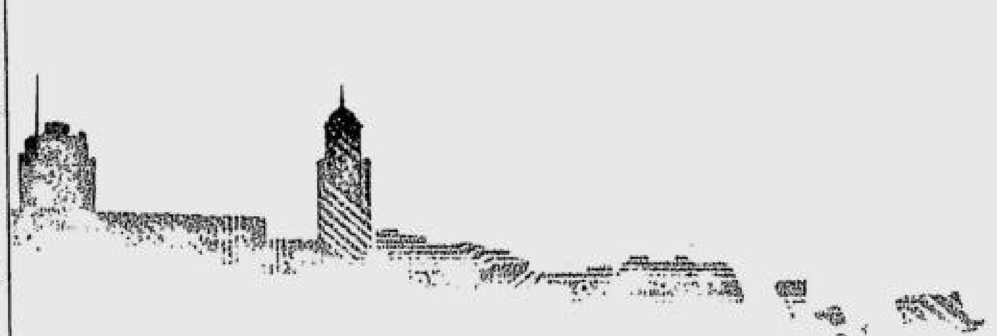

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DOLE says 'industrial peace' reigns

CALAMBA CITY—As the country plunged into deeper economic crisis, trade unions in special economic zones in the Calabarzon region have become "more mature and responsible," which resulted in fewer strikes in the past years, a labor regional official said yesterday.

According to Maximo Lim, Department of Labor and Employment Calabarzon director, both organized and independent unions in the region had come to grips with the effect of the sagging economy on businesses and the status of employment in the country.

"Despite the fact that Calabarzon is home to organized and militant labor groups, they are now working in partnership with their employers to maintain industrial peace in the region. Partnering between labor and employer is the prevailing trend in the region," Lim said in an interview.

He said labor groups in the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon) now prefer to resolve labor disputes through grievance machineries, conciliation and mediation.

"They are now becoming responsible, they no longer easily resort to staging strikes. What is important to organized labor now, is job security and preservation. The workers now prefer to talk with their employers on how to increase the productivity and profitability of the company," Lim said.

He added: "That explains why Calabarzon region has posted a zero labor strike figure for this year."

He said from nine "reported actual strikes" during the first eight months last year, there were only three strikes in the same period this year.

Unfair labor practice and deadlock in collective bargaining agreements were among the reasons for the strikes, he said.

These include around 600 employees in Laguna who are employed in companies manufacturing automotive and ceramic tiles.

This number is considered extremely low as the region hosts more than 50 industrial zones and is home to hundreds of thousands of employees.

He, however, admitted that 43 percent of business enterprises in Calabarzon failed to comply with the minimum wage order while 48 percent violated the government's safety and health standards.

Lim attributed the drop in the number of strikes to the successful campaign in organizing tripartite industrial peace councils (TIPCs).

He said the Calabarzon TIPC, with representatives from the labor, government and business sectors, is now the envy of other regions after the council maintained "industrial peace" inside dozens of ecozones in the region.

Lim said with the help of local government units, TIPCs in five provinces and at least five municipalities in the region are also very active in consulting labor groups.

"We have the strongest industrial council in the country," he said.

But militant labor organizations questioned Lim's declaration.

Luz Baculo, secretary general of Pagkakaisa ng mga Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan (Pamantik), described Lim's claims as "mere delusions."

"Is he dreaming? Where did they get their data?" she said.

Baculo said 1,000 workers in a garments factory in Carmona, Cavite lost their jobs last Sept. 15 when the company suddenly closed shop.

Last February, she said, some 1,000 workers in a bus company also turned jobless. *Marlon Ramos and Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Workers in 3 provinces near Metro get ₱11 hike

CALAMBA CITY—In these trying times, workers from the cities and municipalities in the Calabarzon region will somehow have something to smile about.

After three months of deliberations, members of the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) last week approved an average increase of P11 in the workers' basic pay, with workers in six towns in Cavite, Laguna and Rizal provinces classified as "extended metropolitan area" getting as much as P18 increase in their basic wages.

The increase raised the current basic pay of P237 to P255 for workers employed in business establishments in the towns of Bacoor and Imus in Cavite, Biñan and San Pedro in Laguna, and Taytay and Cainta in Rizal.

The increase is effective Nov. 1.

The approved wage hike was P5 more than the minimum wage in the National Capital Region.

Board Chair Maximo Lim yesterday said the order also gave a P12 increase for employees in "growth corridor area," P8 for "emerging growth area" and P5 for "resource based area."

Lim, also the Department of Labor and Employment regional director, described the wage order as "by far the most labor-friendly, management-friendly." *Marlon Ramos and Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

21 Caraga cops sent to reform training

BUTUAN CITY—A total of 21 policemen, including a police colonel of the Caraga regional police force, are bound for the national reformatory school for "Taba (Tamad, Abusado, Bastos Ayaw Padisiplina)" cops.

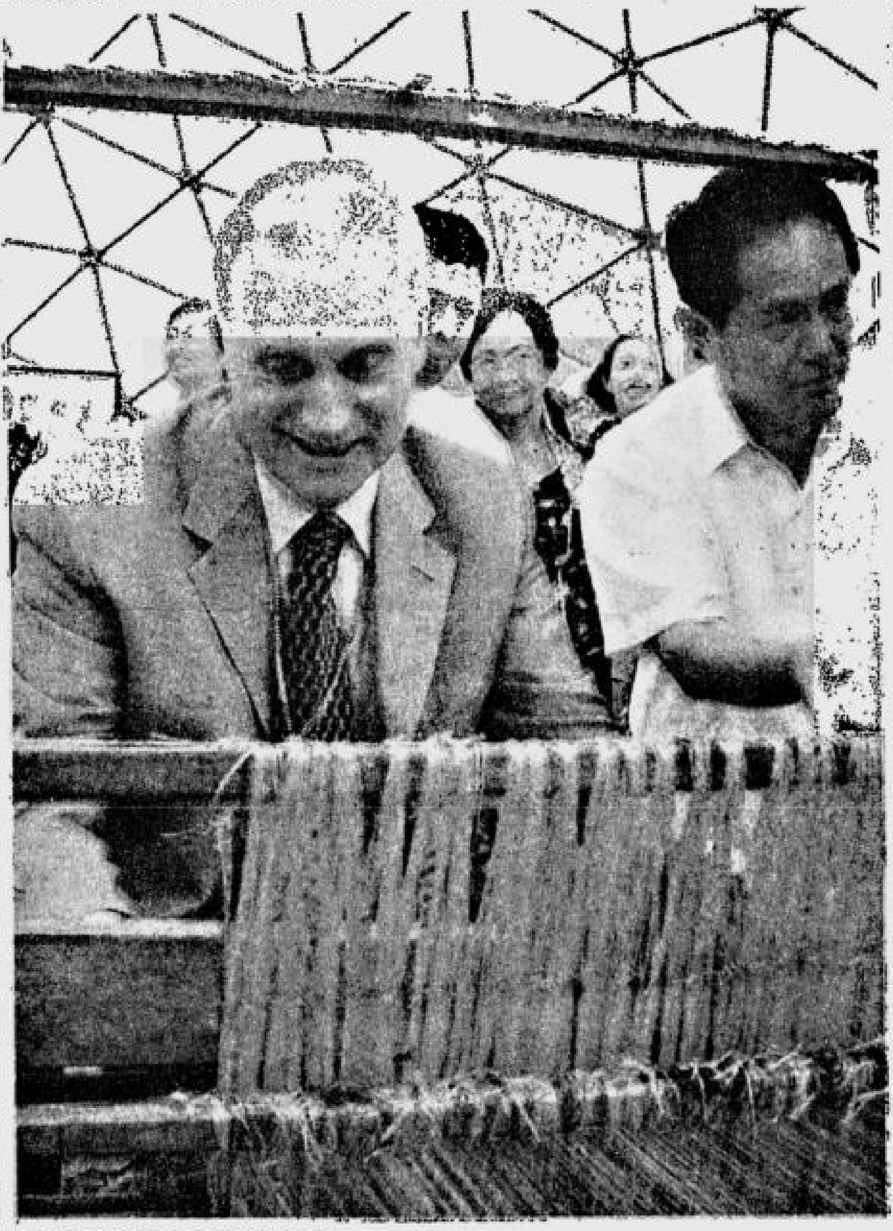
Chief Supt. Rene Elumbaring, police chief for the Caraga region, said the inclusion of the police colonel showed that there was no sacred cow in the drive against erring officers and men in uniform.

"There's no exception," he told the INQUIRER.

Elumbaring, however, refused to identify the police official.

But according to him, the "Taba" official who has a rank of light colonel committed infractions of the law and violated the police code of conduct.

The rest were junior and mid-level officers coming from various operating units all over the region. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



AMBASSADOR'S YARN BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone tries his hand at weaving during the Wow Mindanao Exposition in Davao City. With the ambassador is Vice Mayor Luis Bonguyan.

Charges to be filed vs killer of 1 of 25 giraffes in Calauit

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Palawan Council For Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS), an environmental policy-making body in Palawan, will file charges against the person who killed a giraffe in Calauit Island Game Preserve and Wildlife Sanctuary last Sept. 8.

PCSDS executive director Nelson Devanadera said their investigation had already been concluded and in the next few days, they will file charges of violation of the wildlife act and other pertinent laws against the suspect.

The giraffe's loss cost the government P1.2 million. It was one of 25 grazing on the island.

It was among the original generation of giraffes brought to the sanctuary for breeding, Devanadera added.

The giraffes and other wildlife on Calauit are meek as they are already used to community living on the island. Investigation revealed that the slain giraffe was intentionally hit by a sharp bamboo near the leg that went into its intestines, causing its death.

The animals are the attractions for tourists who go to northern Palawan as it is the only wildlife sanctuary in the Philippines.

Calauit, located on Busuanga Island, is home to Palawan's endemic animal species like Palawan Bearcat, Mousedeer and Palawan Peacock.

Zebra and other animals flown in from Africa during Marcos' time are also found on the island.

Devanadera said animal poaching still persists on the island.

Other animals are accidentally killed in fences made by the communities to protect their vegetable gardens.

Part of Calauit Island is being claimed by families who have lived in the area before it was converted into a wildlife sanctuary.

The ownership dispute is still being debated.

The community stayed in a portion far beyond where the animals grazed or fed.

Devanadera said the council is trying out ways to effectively implement coexistence between man and nature in Calauit.

During peak season, the sanctuary earns P500,000 to P600,000 from entrance fees of tourists but the money goes to a trust fund.

The operational expenses still comes from the budget of PCSDS, which is under the Office of the President.

There are 36 staff members and rangers manning the island but these are not enough to look after each animal.

PCSDS wants to promote Calauit as a prime tourist destination in northern Palawan. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Trader offers settlement on fire deaths

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Chinese-Filipino owner of a local supermarket that was razed by fire on Saturday has offered to settle out of court with the families of his eight workers who died in the blaze.

Tony Co (Choi in business documents) appeared for the first time before the city government's investigating panel on Tuesday.

Lawyer Cicero Punzalan and Eduardo Chua, Filipino-Chinese San Fernando Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, accompanied Co to the meeting.

Mayor Oscar Rodriguez said Co appeared after several rounds of invitation for questioning.

Chua said Co had not been in hiding but had gone to a clinic in Manila.

"He's been shocked by what happened not so much for his business losses but for the death of his workers," Chua told the INQUIRER.

He said Co attended the wake of the victims on Tuesday night.

According to Chua, Co offered to shoulder the burial expenses and wanted to settle the legal cases following the fire, which was described by Rodriguez as the worst to have hit Pampanga's capital city. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Cop, 8 others hurt in blast in Maguindanao

COTABATO CITY—At least nine civilians, including a policeman, were injured during simultaneous explosions traced to a family feud in Buluan, Maguindanao on Tuesday, the military reported yesterday.

Col. Gerry Jalandoni, commander of the Army's 604th Infantry Brigade, said the blasts near a police station and the town's public market were fired from an M-203 rifle that wounded a policeman and eight civilians.

Residents blamed the chaos on the warring families of Mastur Salendab and Ebrahim Mangudadatu, whom the military immediately summoned to a peace dialogue.

The meeting, said Jalandoni, was fruitful when the parties signed a peace covenant witnessed by local officials, lawmen and representatives from nongovernment organizations.

Jalandoni said the Salendabs and Mangudadatus were victims of intrigues from a "third party" that wanted them to annihilate each other. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Pre-need firm workers say educational plans still sell in Mindanao

By J. Tupas and G. Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Employees and officials of the College Assurance Plan (CAP) here yesterday contradicted each other in connection with the activities of the pre-need company.

At least two staffers confirmed that CAP is still selling educational plans.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) ordered CAP on Aug. 18 to stop selling new educational plans.

"It is still open . . . we are still selling," one of the staffers said.

Another staffer said they have no reason to stop selling.

"Nasa newspaper lang iyan (It's only in the papers)," she told the INQUIRER.

A CAP agent in Kidapawan City also confirmed they are still selling plans even with the SEC order.

She said the company had already filed an appeal at the SEC and that pending a final decision, they were not compelled to stop selling.

But Ena Bohol, an official at the accounting department of CAP regional office here, said their Manila office has already ordered a stop to the issuance of new policies.

Bohol said she could not remember when the order was issued but because of this, the CAP regional office here had stopped selling plans.

Dante Nasiad, CAP general manager here, declined to comment when asked about the stop-selling order.

"Can you instead talk to the in charge?" Nasiad asked the INQUIRER.

The "in-charge," Chester Navales, chief of the regional marketing, could not be reached for comment.

In Malaybalay City in Bukidnon, a CAP employee said they also received an order from Manila against selling educational plans.

A company official, who requested anonymity, confirmed this but said their other products, including pension plans, were still being sold.

Kidnap gang head reported dead is alive, says gangmate

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Pentagon gang leader Alonto Tahir is alive contrary to the military's report that he was killed during a raid on his hideout in the Liguasan Marsh, a ranking gang leader claimed.

Pentagon Maguindanao group commander Tacio Mamaluba, who surrendered to military authorities on Tuesday, said the ailing gang leader has been in hiding and has become suspicious of his men after the military raid on Aug. 13.

He said Tahir's temper has triggered restiveness among gang members.

Col. Peter Ramon Sinajon, deputy commander of the Army's 604th Infantry Brigade based in the said province, said they will verify the information provided by Mamaluba.

After the raid, military officials including Southern Command chief Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga reported that Tahir, blamed for a series of kidnappings in Central Mindanao, had been slain.

His body and that of his alleged followers who were killed during the raid have not been recovered though.

A few hours after the raid, which was carried out by at least two MG-520 attack helicopters, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) confirmed that Tahir's house, which was built atop an islet between Barangay Lumibao in SK Pendatun town and Barangay Midpakan in Sultan sa Barongis town, had been hit.

Both villages are part of the Maguindanao side of the marsh, one of the strongholds of the MILF.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said then that their information indicated that Tahir was seriously wounded and that some gang members were indeed killed when bombs hit the islet.

A few weeks after the raid, which caused a rift between the military and the MILF, reports started to circulate that Tahir has survived the attack and that he was recuperating somewhere.

Kabalu said they heard about the same information but could not verify it.

The military maintained Tahir had been killed, citing intelligence reports and information provided by villagers.

Senga said the reason Tahir's body was never recovered was that it was buried by his relatives and some followers in accordance with the Muslim burial tradition.

Muslims bury their dead before sundown.

Mamaluba, who surrendered to the Army's 66th Infantry Battalion in President Quirino, Sultan Kudarat on Tuesday morning, said he saw Tahir a few days ago.

He said the Pentagon leader, who has been holding grocery-owner Zoila Kansi of Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat, is still in the Liguasan Marsh, but he did not specify which part of the vast wetlands.

Mamaluba's brother Dima, who said he served as close-in bodyguard of Tahir's, agreed with the information.

He said Tahir is suffering from diabetes but is still in command of the kidnap gang.

The Pentagon is in Washington's list of terror groups.

The gang has links with the Jemaah Islamiya. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

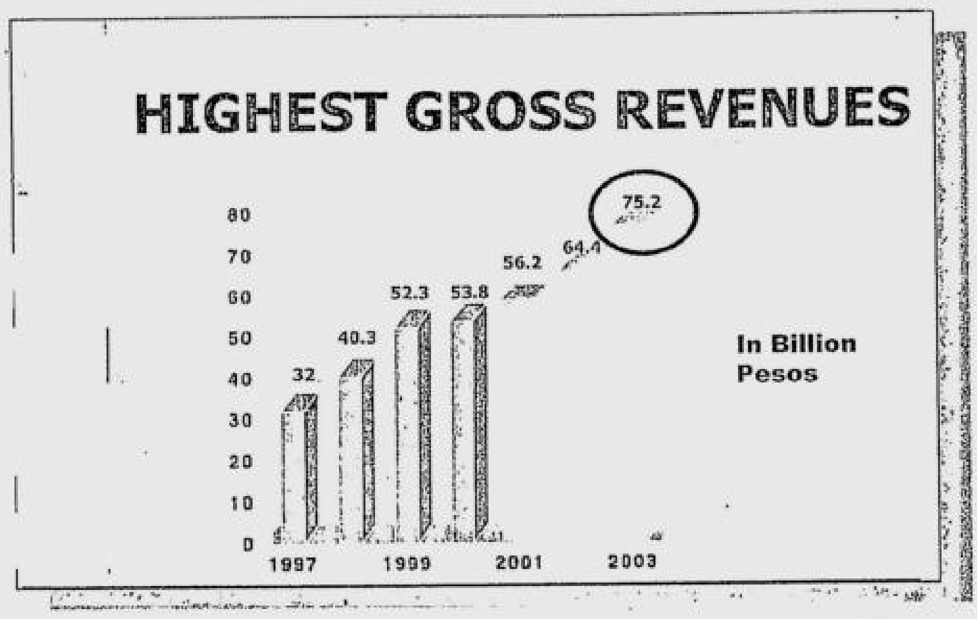
THE TRUTH ABOUT THE GSIS

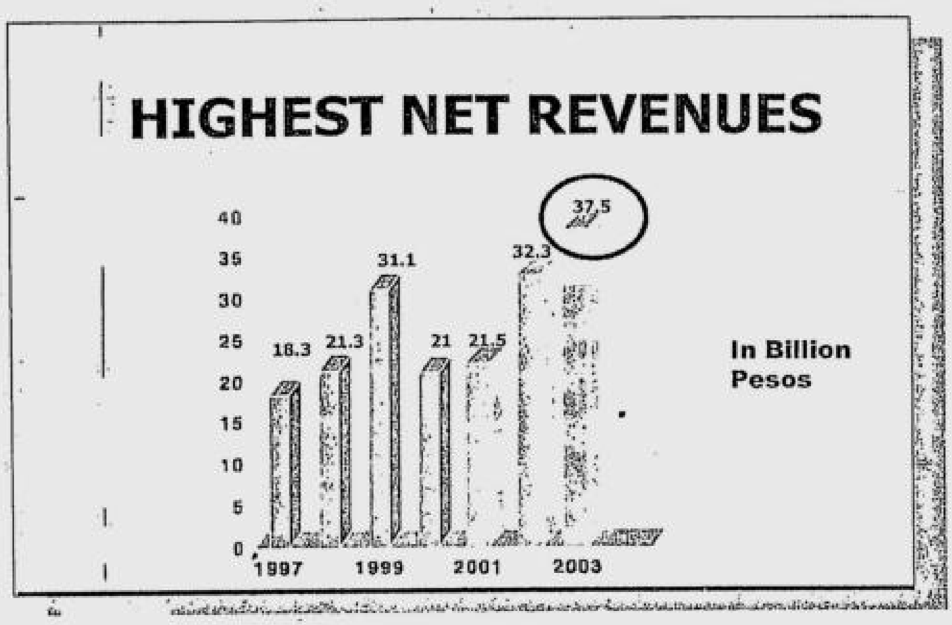
Lately, the management of Government Service Insurance System has been subjected to harsh but unfair criticism by some sectors of society. This has attained wide publicity in media. It has resulted in grave misconceptions and misperceptions about GSIS among the public, including many of its members.

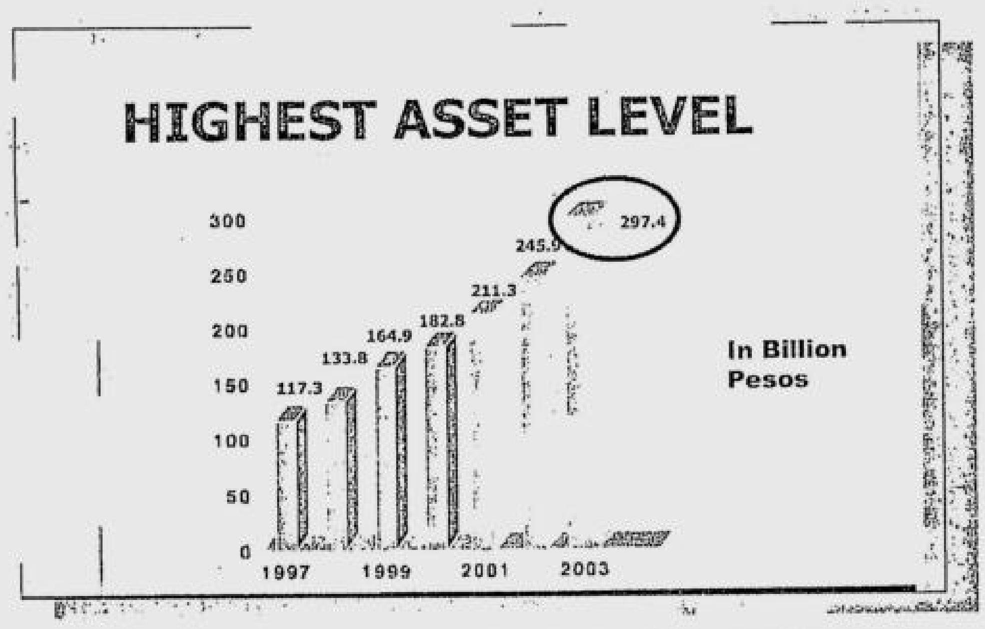
BUT WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

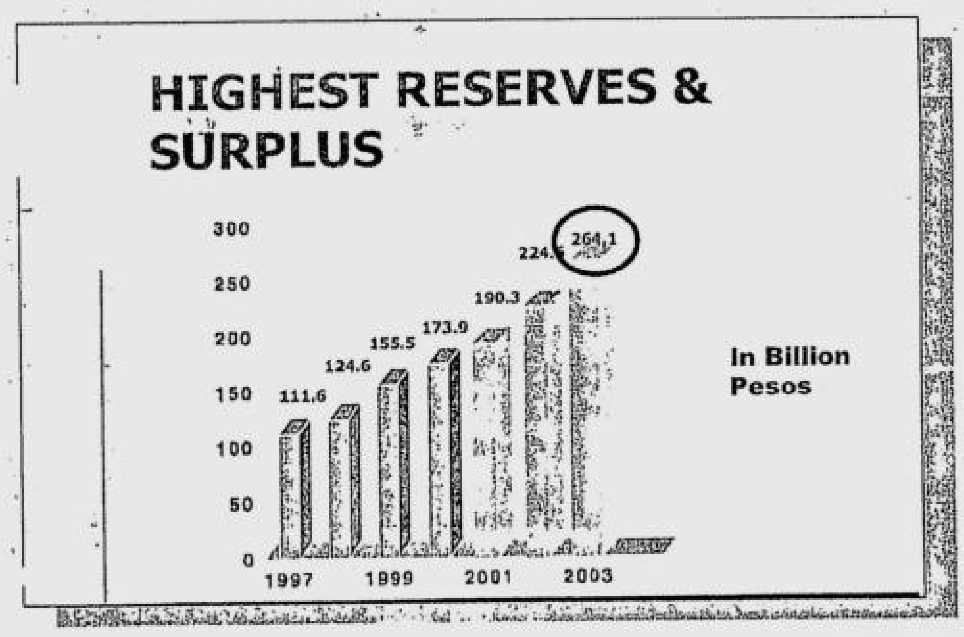
Because of fundamental reforms, including full computerization, instituted by the management under its president and general manager, Winston Garcia, the GSIS today is a **ROCK OF STABILITY**, the **NUMBER ONE** and the most **PROFITABLE** and **FINANCIALLY SOUND** institution among all the government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs). Under his stewardship, the GSIS achieved a number of firsts: highest gross revenues (P75.3 billion in 2003); highest net revenues (P37.3 billion in 2003); highest asset level (P297.4 billion in 2003); highest reserves and surplus (P264.1 billion in 2003); highest amount of claims and benefits paid (P26.7 billion in 2003); and highest number of loans approved(1,791,004); processed and paid P46.92 billion in just eight months(January-August), **a record unmatched in the government corporate sector.**

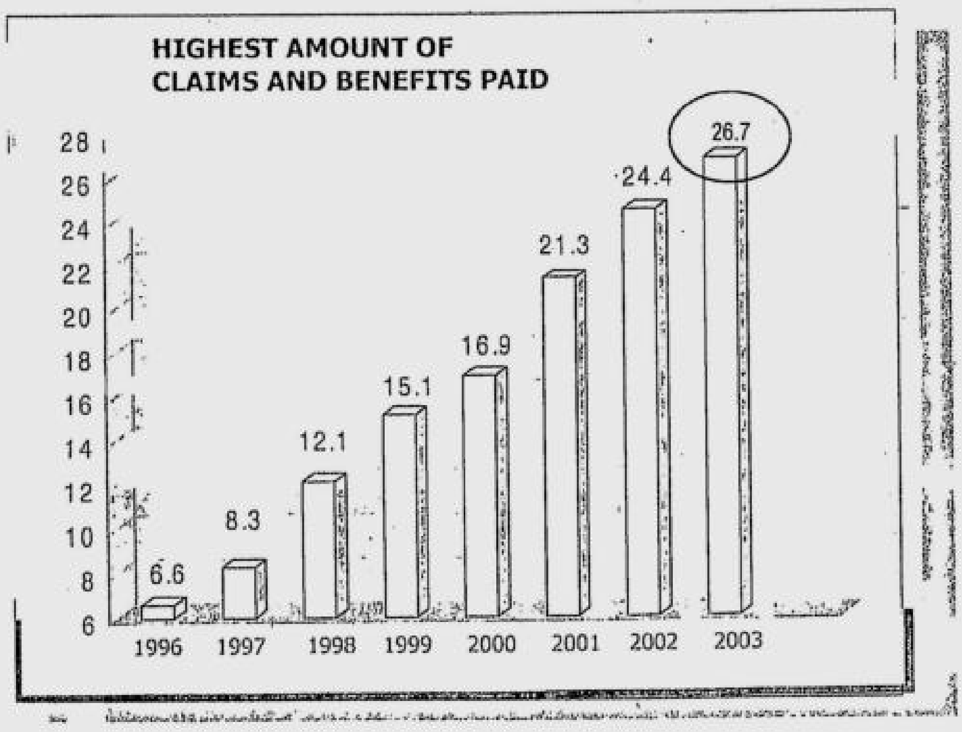
THESE COA-AUDITED FIGURES DO NOT LIE!

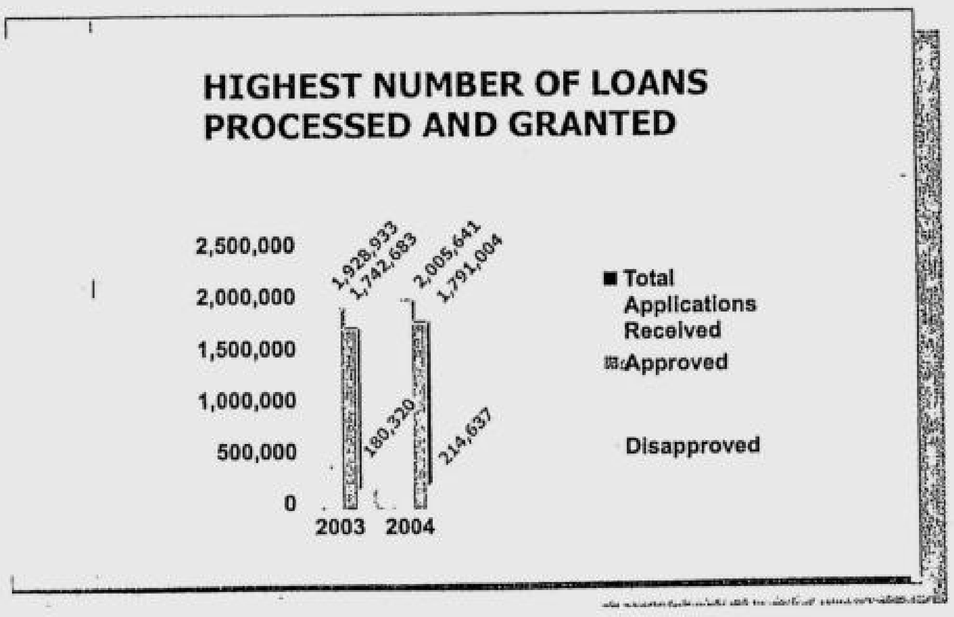












Record earnings do not come out of nowhere. They are the products of prudent investments, sound and dedicated management and wise use of the pension funds in a transparent, accountable and equitable manner.

At the end of the day, what matters most is that the GSIS has become financially stronger and stable under Winston Garcia , capable of serving more efficiently and quickly the needs of ALL its members for decades to come.

The GSIS stands tall and proud, solid as a rock!

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Floreño G. Solmirano**

Travails of Banahaw's rehabilitation

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

LAST March, when members of the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) and environmentalists sealed off several trails leading to the bosom of Mount Banahaw, most of the participants knew they were facing a daunting task ahead.

They were starting a five-year rehabilitation program that would resurrect the mountain's natural resources.

The human settlements inside the protected area appeared to be most challenging. "Unsustainable and destructive livelihood activities have endangered several endemic flora and fauna and caused the extinction of others. Tracts of forest lands have been converted into agricultural use that adopts inappropriate technologies, which are dependent on inorganic fertilizers and pesticides," said the PAMB in its management plan for the Banahaw and San Cristobal mountains.

"Kaingin" (slash and burn) farming has not only left a lamentable mark on the mountains' surface but also now takes its toll on the fragile watershed, resulting in the drying up of the mountain's springs, falls and other traditional water sources of lowland communities.

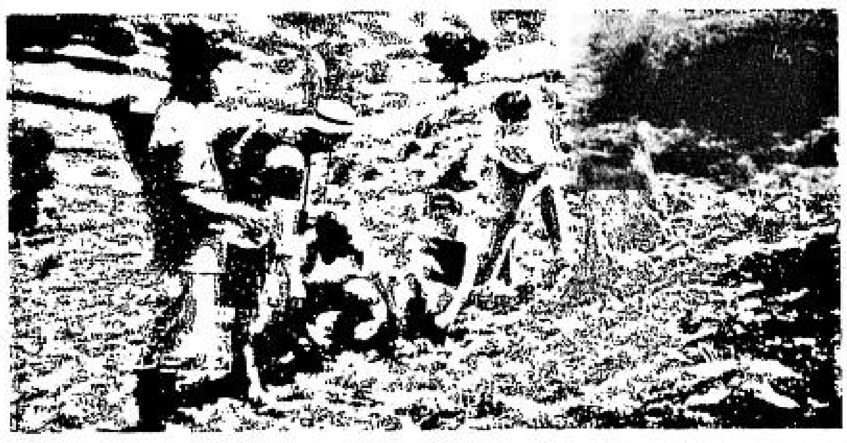
Iliad Luna, chief of the Sariaya Waterworks System, said there has been an extreme shortage in the town's water supply during the past years.

"One of the main springs in Mt. Banahaw where we get water now provides only a trickle, only 12 liters per second," he told the INQUIRER.

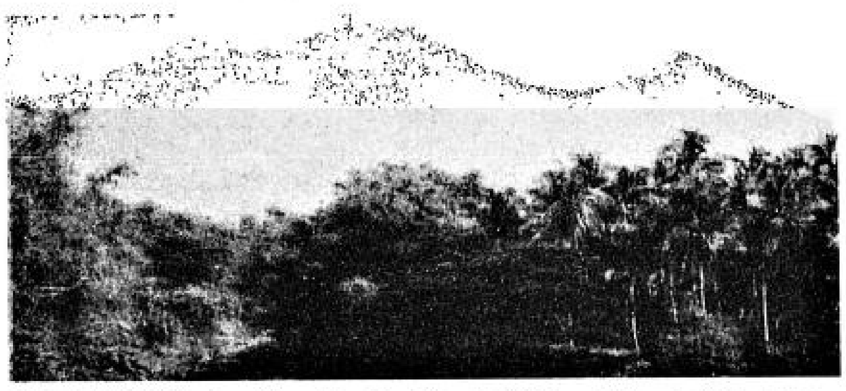
Sariaya town lies on the slope of the mountain.

Sariaya Councilor Alex Tolentino, blamed this on the "kaingineros."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS look at the destructive effect of landslide caused by generations of "slash and burn" farming in the mountain villages of Bugon and Sampaloc I in Sariaya, Quezon. COURTESY OF TANGGOL KALIKASAN



STUDENTS from St. Francis Academy in Sariaya help plant indigenous tree species in Bugon as their contribution to the rehabilitation of Mt. Banahaw. COURTESY OF TANGGOL KALIKASAN



MT. BANAHAW (left peak) and Mt. San Cristobal (right peak) loom in the horizon. DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

Illegal farming

Sally Pangan, protected area supervisor assigned by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to mounts Banahaw and San Cristobal, found that the soil erosion in the area between Barangays Sampaloc 1 and Bugon in Sariaya was due to rampant illegal farming in the mountain. She noted that the land in the area has no more topsoil.

A video by Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, showed Lope Ralativo, village chief of Bugon, pointing at the land that he said "has been tilled for a long time and is no longer fertile; it's [been] bombarded with chemical fertilizers."

The extent of soil erosion, near the water source downstream, indicates a mismanaged watershed, Pangan said.

In Dolores town, municipal environment and natural resources officer Manny Calayag also complained of the effects of the kaingin farming long practiced by Mt. Banahaw settlers.

He said the town has also been experiencing acute water shortage. The town gets its water supply from falls and springs from Mt. Banahaw.

"Even our Lagnas River where I used to swim during my childhood is now dry," Calayag said.

Rich water

Ironically, Mt. Banahaw has been known as "Vulcan de Agua" (water volcano). Seven rivers traverse the mountain: Balayong, Maimpis, Liliw, Dalitiwan, Malinao, Nagcarlan and San Diego.

The river system that snakes around mounts Banahaw and San Cristobal provides water for domestic, irrigation and recreational purposes. Some rivers like the Kinabuhayan River in Dolores are also believed to have "medicinal and healing powers."

Aside from crystal-clear rivers, Mt. Banahaw also teems with falls like Sta. Lucia, Suplina and Kristalino falls, which are found in Dolores, the same town known as the gate for religious pilgrims during Holy Week.

The perennial problems brought by the presence of several religious groups inside the protected area still arise occasionally.

In July, PAMB officials led by Pangan stopped an illegal construction within the "Kweba ng Dios Ama" inside the protected area where the previously constructed structures of the Suprema de la Iglesia de la Ciudad Mistica de Dios were built in 1998.

Several members of the influential religious sect were arrested and are facing charges in court.

But despite all the unwelcome discoveries and unfortunate preceding events after the closure, an environmentalist group described the mountain's temporary rest and the ongoing rehabilitation efforts as a "timely dwell of hopes" for all the stakeholders.

"We're now slowly inching our way towards the sustainable rehabilitation of Mt. Banahaw. There would always be myriad of challenges along the road but we are firm in our resolve to make it through," said Jay Lim, program officer for Mt. Banahaw and watershed project of Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, a public interest legal defense center for the environment based in Quezon and one of the prime movers in the rehabilitation of the mountain.

Rehab efforts

The Luntiang Alyansa ng Bundok Banahaw (LABB), a nongovernment organization advocating for community-based protection and sustainable natural resource management for the mountain, has created a three-dimensional model of the mountain complex.

The model has been used for the following activities: redefinition of the boundary of the national park, community-based land use planning, formation of village groups to monitor the protected area, creation of awareness and preparation of patrolling plans for forest rangers.

The LABB recently displayed a miniature of the mountain in SM City Lucena to solicit awareness among shoppers.

The event also served as the kick-off for the organization's "Ka-Irog" campaign to generate support for the mountain rehabilitation efforts.

"Ka" refers to "kalikasan" (environment), while "Irog," Tagalog for beloved, means to develop "man-mountain relationship" that would continuously advocate mutual protection.

"Man and nature maintain a symbiotic relationship, they can't live without one another. It has to be eternally preserved that way," Jun Lontok, LABB president, explained.

Rep. Proceso Alcala, the area representative in Congress and Quezon's noted businessman-environmentalist, said the rehabilitation of Banahaw and San Cristobal mountains is one of the top priorities of his administration.

"We have to immediately attend to the fragile condition of Banahaw's watersheds. There ought to be a massive reforestation in all denuded portions of the mountain," he said.

The lawmaker now maintains a nursery of indigenous species of forest trees, which will supply future tree-planting activities.

Last month, employees of Smart, a communications firm, planted thousands of indigenous tree species in the Sariaya side of Mt. Banahaw.

Lim has noted that one of the students' extra-curricular activities is tree-planting in the denuded portion of the mountain.

Alcala, together with three other Quezon lawmakers, has re-filed a bill in Congress that would establish mounts Banahaw and San Cristobal as a "protected landscape."

"When Congress resumes session, we will make an 'awareness-display' in Batasan that would show the present condition [of] Mt. Banahaw and Mt. San Cristobal. With that, we hope that we will get the support of Congress in our rehabilitation efforts and programs," Alcala said.

Protected area

Mounts Banahaw and San Cristobal were proclaimed as protected areas on June 25, 2003 through Presidential Proclamation No. 411. The area has a total of 11,133.30 hectares and covers nine municipalities and one city in Laguna and Quezon.

Alcala called on all mountain tenured migrants to help restore the area by planting forest and fruit-bearing trees as vegetative measures.

"There should be an alternative livelihood and modern farming methods for the upland farmers," he said, adding that he had already coordinated with various government agencies to address the issue.

Cecilia Gascon, Ph.D., president of Southern Luzon Polytechnic College (SLPC), said the college has detailed three regular forest rangers to monitor the various activities in the mountain.

The rangers also maintain regular consultation and coordination with barangay officials to ensure the active participation of the latter in the conservation program.

In 1982, a memorandum of agreement was signed between officials of SLPC and the Ministry of Natural Resources, giving the college direct supervision and protection of more than 1,660 hectares of Mt. Banahaw de Lucban.

"The college has successfully reforested more than 50 hectares of denuded forest of Mt. Banahaw de Lucban," Gascon said.

The SLPC encourages the participation of other government agencies, local institutions, academic groups and private corporations in the reforestation of Mt. Banahaw.

Gascon said SLPC maintains a policy of allowing hikers to go on peak assault only when accompanied by a forest ranger.

"The rangers ensure that no garbage is left in the peak or along the trail of the mountain," she said.

Mt. Banahaw advocates have also expressed alarm that mountain species and ecosystem are more threatened today due to man's activities.

They called for the regulation in the gathering of orchids, ferns and medicinal and plant collection within the park.

They also called for the establishment of sanctuaries and implementation of close seasons for hunting and trappings, prohibition of trade and possession of products from the most endangered selected species.

In May, a team of American and Filipino biologists discovered an unbranded rodent-like mammal with a bright orange color in Mt. Banahaw.

Dr. Lawrence Heaney of the Field Museum of Natural History at the University of Chicago and author of the book "Vanishing Treasures of the Philippine Rain Forests," said the animal is not of the same species that can be seen anywhere else in the world.

But sadly, Tanggol Kalikasan also reported its discovery that some village folk also keep several endangered species, mostly eagles from the wilds of Banahaw, in the confines of their homes.

"Some of them live in cages, too weak and dying. These brutalities should stop," Lim said.

Vet administers 'euthanasia' to eagle

INSTEAD of letting Aslam continuously suffer from terrible pain, a government veterinarian opted to give him an injection for his final journey, leaving behind an environmental group saddened but with a firm resolve to prevent the repeat of a similar story.

Twenty-six hours after the extremely weak Aslam, an adult Crested or Changeable Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*) found in a village at the foot of Mt. Banahaw where he got his name, the veterinarian at the Center for Philippine Raptors at the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) campus in Laguna, after painstaking efforts to stop the raptor's worsening condition, decided to resort to euthanasia.

"The poor eagle was a victim of man's cruelty," lamented Jay Lim, coordinator of Tanggol Kalikasan, a public interest environmental law office based here.

The Crested or Changeable Hawk-Eagle, which has a rufous head, streaked black and a long flexible black crest, is found in India, Ceylon and tropical continental Asia east to Indonesia and the Philippines.

It is listed as endangered species under the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

At around 11 a.m., Sept. 26, farmer Rosendo Calvendra recovered the raptor near their house in Barangay Ibabang Aslam in Tayabas, Quezon at the foot of Mt. Banahaw.

"The bird suddenly fell from a tree. He was so weak due to several wounds in his body," Calvendra told Lim in a video documentation made by Tanggol Kalikasan.

Sensing that it was not an ordinary bird, the farmer immediately reported the matter to the authorities. "Because that's what I often heard over the radio: a citizen should always report the matter to the authorities, especially in cases like this," he added.

When informed of the farmer's finding, Romy Cariaga, the Tayabas environment and natural resources officer, immediately contacted the Tanggol Kalikasan's office and reported the discovery.

Without delay, the group, including Calvendra, transported the eagle to the Center for Philippine Raptors.

The center's veterinarian, Dr. Johannes de los Santos, immediately attended to the frail adult eagle that weighed a little less than a kilo.

He found a broken bone on the right leg of the bird and fracture wounds on the left side of the bird's shoulder.

"The doctor suspected that Aslam's serious wounds were caused by gunshots apparently from hunters," Lim said.

The Changeable Hawk-Eagle's preferred habitat includes savannah woodland, cultivated land with trees, timbered water courses and even forest villages and suburban edge.

"He was so weak when we left him. We really prayed hard for him to survive the ordeal but it seemed that our prayers were not enough," Lim said, his eyes nearly in tears and his head shaking.

The next day at around 10 a.m., the center called up the office of Tanggol Kalikasan to report that Aslam's condition had turned worse.

The group rushed back to UPLB. So as not to prolong the bird's suffering, the doctor recommended that the ailing bird be subjected to euthanasia.

THE STAFF of the Center for Philippine Raptors spread Aslam's wings after his "peaceful death." PHOTO COURTESY OF TANGGOL KALIKASAN

At exactly 1 p.m., De los Santos injected Aslam with 0.6 ml of Euthatal Pentubarbitone. After a few seconds, the eagle fell asleep and died.

The center officials will use Aslam's body as an "educational stuff," said Lim.

The doctor said that based on Aslam's body condition, the bird could have been living in a cage for quite a long time.

"There's the possibility that the bird was intentionally released due to fear that whoever was holding him and the eagle died in his possession, he would be arrested by authorities" Lim said.

The Tanggol Kalikasan and the Tayabas environment office have an ongoing campaign against hunters preying on endangered species in Mt. Banahaw.

In June, the campaign advocates rescued a young Changeable Hawk-Eagle from a villager in Barangay Ilayang Bukal who bought the bird for domestication.

The eagle, named "Bukal," was turned over to the care of the Center for Philippine Raptors.

Althea Lota, project manager of Philippine Raptors Conservation Program, appealed to the public not to buy captured eagle and instead report the matter to the authorities. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr.*

Makati fetes top senior citizens

By Margaux C. Ortiz

MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay (right) with this year's awardees (from left) former Supreme Court Associate Justice Lorenzo Relova and wife Conchita, Jose Ballenas and Alfredo del Rosario.

MORE than a hundred years in this world has failed to dampen this man's spirit.

Jose Osorio Ballenas, 103, was honored yesterday by the Makati City government as the city's oldest living resident as part of its Senior Citizen's Week celebration.

The city government also paid tribute to Lorenzo and Conchita Relova as the longest married living couple, and Alfredo del Rosario Sr. and the late Celestina Navarro as the most productive grandparents.

Despite his age, Ballenas still enjoys reading whatever he could lay his hands on, according to his youngest daughter, Delia Beltran.

"He still tries to go around the house, expressing his desire to do things," Beltran said in an interview.

Beltran said her father loved talking to people, and only stopped speaking when his 97-year-old wife Concordia died last April. "He was devastated when he learned of my mother's death," Beltran said. "He loved her very much."

Ballenas and his wife, who were blessed with nine children, won last year as the oldest married couple.

Beltran said her father, a farmer and fisherman in his younger days, refused to indulge in any kind of vice.

"He loved eating fish and vegetables and spent his free time getting involved in sports like boxing and track and field," Beltran said.

Beltran also said her father's ancestors had also lived long lives.

Ballenas, a native of Culasi, Antique, moved with his wife to Makati City in 1992. He now lives with Beltran on Magnolia St., Barangay Rizal.

Former Supreme Court Associate Justice Lorenzo Relova and his wife Conchita of Barangay San Antonio have been declared as the city's longest married couple, with 63 years and 11 months of "blissful marriage."

"We met in the same small town of Pila, Laguna," Relova said. "I'm proud to say that I never regretted having been married to this beautiful woman for 64 years."

Conchita said the secret of their marriage was involving God in their marriage.

"We always go to Holy Mass every morning," Conchita said. "That has helped us get through every obstacle we faced."

Last to be awarded was Del Rosario, 84, as the city's "most productive grandfather" with 13 children, 53 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

Del Rosario, a native of Gapan, Nueva Ecija, said he had always wanted to have many children.

"I have always been a big fan of big, happy families," Del Rosario said, grinning. But he added that he discouraged his children to do the same.

"Times are hard and they could take care of their children better if they practice birth control," Del Rosario said.

The awardees received P3,000 cash rewards and certificates during a ceremony held at the Makati City Hall.

Lax policy on Metro billboards rapped

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE LACK of proper regulation has paved the way for the indiscriminate installation of billboards in the metropolis, according to the head of an advertising association.

Jun Perez, president of the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP), said their group has encountered problems with unscrupulous advertisers who put up structurally unsafe billboards in road right-of-ways.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) had earlier declared that these billboards pose dangers to motorists because they compete with road signs.

"Our association has been receiving lots of complaints from concerned citizens and motorists about these billboards," Perez said in a media forum hosted by the Advertising Board of the Philippines yesterday in Makati City.

Perez said that even if their association has stressed the importance of public safety, "many nonmembers continued to defy safety regulations."

"They are only concerned with getting permits from the local government units," Perez lamented, adding that these advertisers outnumber the 70 members of their association.

Perez said there are more than a hundred advertisers who are not members of the OAAP.

The OAAP president cited as an example the billboard which collapsed in Pasig City and destroyed 14 houses last August.

"The advertiser was not an OAAP member," Perez said, stressing they are finding it hard to control nonmembers.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, on the other hand, also noted that many billboards in the metropolis were structurally unsafe.

"If I was a structural engineer, I would not approve of the installation of these billboards," Fernando said.

He added most advertisers used flimsy tarpaulin which collapse during typhoons.

Perez said that their association has prohibited their members from putting up billboards in the road right-of-way.

"Unfortunately, we are losing business to nonmembers because they could put up their structures wherever they want," Perez said.

He appealed to the LGUs to strictly implement the provisions of the National Building Code and keep the unscrupulous advertisers in check by issuing permits to deserving ones.

"We are continuously reminding the LGUs and furnishing them with copies of our regulations and code of ethics," Perez said.

Fernando also asked the advertising association to submit a proposal for a billboard regulation that can be adopted by the MMDA and the LGUs.

"This is your trade and you know more about it than anyone else," Fernando told the advertisers during the forum.

He said the regulation could include appropriate sizes, structural specifications and message contents of billboards.

METROBRIEFS

Loans restricted

POLICEMEN in Marikina City have been advised to restrict their borrowings from financial institutions. Sr. Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., city police chief, said they issued the restriction after learning that more than half of the members of the city's police force only get a take home pay of only P3,000 a month. Rojas said a cop's regular take-home pay is between P7,000 and P8,000. Much of the pay goes to paying their loans, Rojas said, adding this usually makes the policemen susceptible to corruption. Rojas said they now check a cop's pay slip first before approving his application for a loan. *Luige del Puerto*

Grenade seized

AN ALERT security guard yesterday prevented what could have been an alarming incident when he wrested a hand grenade from an alleged crazy person near the De La Salle University in Manila. Police said the guard, Jonifer Gaa, who is assigned at the LRT Vito Cruz station, saw the man at around 9:30 a.m. showing passersby what appeared to be a hand grenade near his post. Gaa grabbed it from the man and immediately called the police. The suspect ran away. Police are looking for him. *Leila Salaverria*

Girl, 16, charged

A 16-YEAR-OLD girl is now facing charges for allegedly conniving with her boyfriend to kill her mother, whom she accused of causing her baby's abortion. The teenage suspect and her boyfriend Richard Cusi were charged with parricide, murder and robbery before the Quezon City Prosecutors Office yesterday. The girl is already in the custody of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit, while Cusi is now the subject of a police manhunt. Investigation showed that victim Aida Labay, a businesswoman, was found with at least 40 stab wounds in different parts of the body inside her house in Quezon City on Sept. 28. Bothered by her conscience, the victim's daughter confessed to her father how she and Cusi hatched the plan to kill her mother. *Tina Santos*

Smokey Mountain folk edgy

By Tarra V. Quismundo

LIVING in controversy has come to bother tenants of low-cost housing units at the former site of the Smokey Mountain.

"They are very disturbed, and they are having fears on whether they would still be able to transfer to the housing units," said Fr. Ben Beltran, a Tondo priest who has seen the struggle of Smokey Mountain residents to have their own homes.

Fate has become uncertain for some 1,000 more families, longtime Smokey Mountain residents who were among the beneficiaries of the Smokey Mountain Development & Rehabilitation Project (SMDRP).

Meanwhile, among the more than 2,000 families who had moved into their own homes courtesy of the SMDRP, the fear of being driven out of their homes lingers.

"This is a fight between politicians and big-time businessmen that has put us at risk. We hope they solve this immediately," said Nenita Santiago in Filipino. She is community coordinator and tenant of building 15, who was among the first to move into the buildings last December.

The SMDRP has come under fire recently, as a case seeking to void the deal between construction conglomerate R-II Builders and the National Housing Authority is pending at the Supreme Court.

Marikina spreads word. . .

From page A20

do the same.

"You should have a ligation now," she tells a young lady with an infant in her arms. "It's the children that suffer if you have more kids," she adds.

Winnie tries the same tact with a 38-year-old mother of six. "Since your husband is abroad, this is the best time to have ligation," she tells her.

When she senses hesitation, she goes right to the point. "Don't think twice. You still have many years before menopause. No doubt, you will have more children. Do you want that?" she said.

As the women shake their heads, Winnie pulls out a referral form. "Go to the health center and be scheduled for ligation," she said. "It's free, and the medicines are free too," she added.

Each time the volunteers step inside a house, they take it as an opportunity to help a woman, to let her understand how her body works. If the man of the house is receptive, the women try to convince him as well.

In many instances, they correct misconceptions about family planning before they even discuss the methods.

"Some tell us that women who have IUDs become more sexually active and are more likely to cheat on their husbands," recalled Leonila Santos, another volunteer.

"We explain that sexual aggression has less to do with the IUD, and more with a woman's wants and moods," she said.

Some of these misconceptions run deep, showing how many families are unaware of family planning.

For instance, a number of women—and men—believe the male's organ touches the IUD's tip during sexual intercourse. As a result, they want the IUDs taken out.

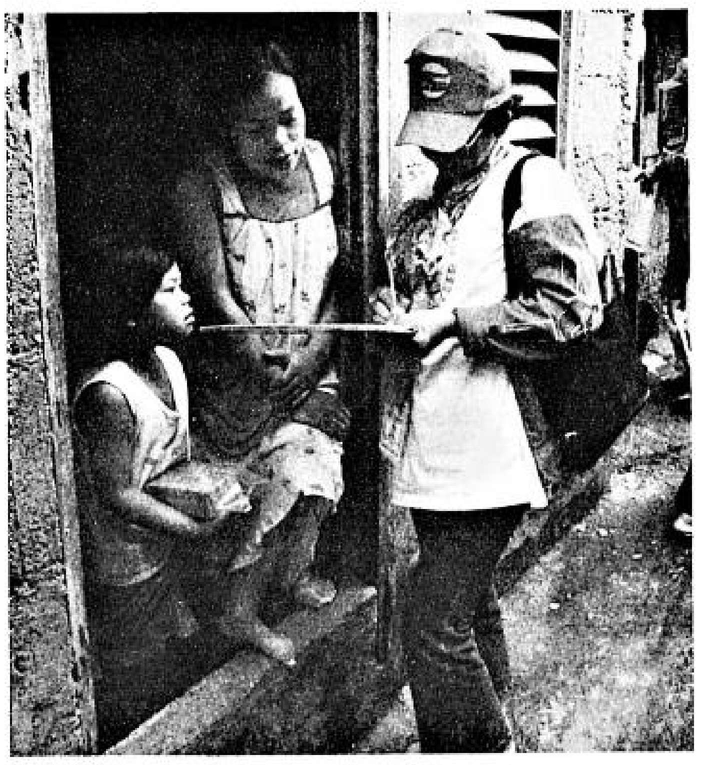
"The IUD is placed in the uterus, far from the vaginal canal," said a health worker, as she takes out a chart of the female reproductive system. "A male's organ can only go this far," she said, pointing to the end of the canal.

Some believe that pills do not melt, get stuck in the stomach, and later, cause cancer.

How are such beliefs shattered?

"You have to be patient. You have to listen to them. You have to show you are sincere. In many cases, all it takes is a little explanation," Winnie said.

"What makes us happy is when those we refer for ligation appear at the health center to find out when they can be scheduled for the procedure," she added.


ONE OF the volunteers makes her rounds. ROGER CARPIO

There are currently 86 million Filipinos, with the figures growing at a rate of 2.36 percent annually. City officials fully understand that whatever economic gains the country achieves is easily wiped out by uncontrolled population growth.

"We have the full support of the city," says local PopCom head Blesilda Enriquez.

Enriquez says her office does not mind what the Church has to say on the issue.

"The Church has its own opinions. We have ours. We are simply doing what we think is best for the country," she says.

Manila vows jobs, not just food, for poor

By Tarra V. Quismundo

SPOON-FEEDING, literally, is not the answer.

Amid reports that more Filipinos miss regular meals daily, the Manila City government would rather help the poor earn a living than give them something to eat.

"It's teaching the man how to fish, not giving him the fish," said Manila Department of Social Welfare (MDSW) chief Jose Baranda.

Baranda said yesterday that the city would rather help poor Manilans find means of making money, instead of supplying them food regularly.

The national social welfare department had announced a plan to give food coupons to the poor, after studies showed an increase in the number of Filipinos experiencing starvation.

But Baranda said that such a program might be hard to sustain, as funds may eventually dry up. Thus in Manila, helping the poor make a living, than feeding them to live, has become the primary urban popr program.

Fund assistance

"We are now intensifying capital assistance for the underprivileged. That's how you teach them to be self-reliant," Baranda told the INQUIRER yesterday. In the coming week, the city is set to give out capital assistance worth P859,000 to some 338 Manilans.

The city government also provides skills training for the poor, including programs where men and women of age may learn simple business management, and income-generating skills like sewing and cooking.

Baranda said that simply providing food for the less-privileged might make them accustomed to dependence and content with waiting for the blessing to come.

NO TO 5 PASSENGERS POLICY
FX DRIVERS hold a rally at the LTFRB main office in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

FX men protest LTFRB order

From page A20

Magno also objected to the plan to pick up and drop off passengers for the AUV Express.

Other FX operators said the five-passenger policy for mega taxis would cut their income in half.

Bautista said the government would limit the franchise for the AUV Express to holders of thè 9,044 franchises currently in limbo.

She said these franchises could be converted into an AUV Express but the FXs registered as taxis must continue to operate as cabs.

The LTFRB chair also agreed that there was a demand that the AUVs charge on a per head basis, despite objections from jeepney and bus groups. Bautista said the LTFRB would likely adopt the fare scheme of vehicles for hire, which is P6 for the first five kilometers and P1 for every succeeding kilometer. For hire vehicles are seeking a fare increase of P10 for the first five kilometers and P1.50 for each additional distance.

Vehicles currently classified as for hire were among those that could convert their franchises into an AUV Express. Mega taxis, on the other hand, are banned from lining up at AUV terminals starting Oct. 16. *With Luige del Puerto*

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SUERTRES 7 3 0

FOUR DIGIT 0 2 7 2
(In exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45 4 13 21 41 44 45

FX vs LTFRB order

By Clarissa S. Batino

DRIVERS and operators of the AUV (Asian Utility Vehicle) Express, more commonly known as FX, temporarily abandoned their routes for three hours yesterday morning and trooped to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board to protest a recent order directing mega taxis or FX vehicles with taxi franchises to stop operating like the Express.

The interruption in service, however, did little to cripple public transport services, at least in eastern Metro Manila, where the move reportedly failed to get the support of many FX drivers.

"There was no strike. FX drivers and operators went to the LTFRB just for a dialogue," clarified Jun Magno, president of the Confederation of FX Operators and Drivers.

"I don't know the exact number, but many in our association did not join the move," said Gerry de Guzman, a member of an FX association plying the Cubao-SSS Marikina route.

LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista said FX operators were planning to file a motion for reconsideration today.

If the motion is approved, the body could suspend the fare hike order for taxis scheduled for implementation starting Oct. 16.

Taxis had been allowed to charge P30 on flag down, or the first 500 meters. Every succeeding 300 meters would be charged P2.50, from the old rate of P2.

Every two minutes of waiting time would be charged P2.50, also 50 centavos more from the original P2.

Mega taxis had been ordered to use their meters, limit their passengers to no more than five, and to remove the back seats at to give way to cargo starting Oct. 16.

Magno said they would ask the LTFRB to reconsider the back seats order and to allow all FXs to charge per head.

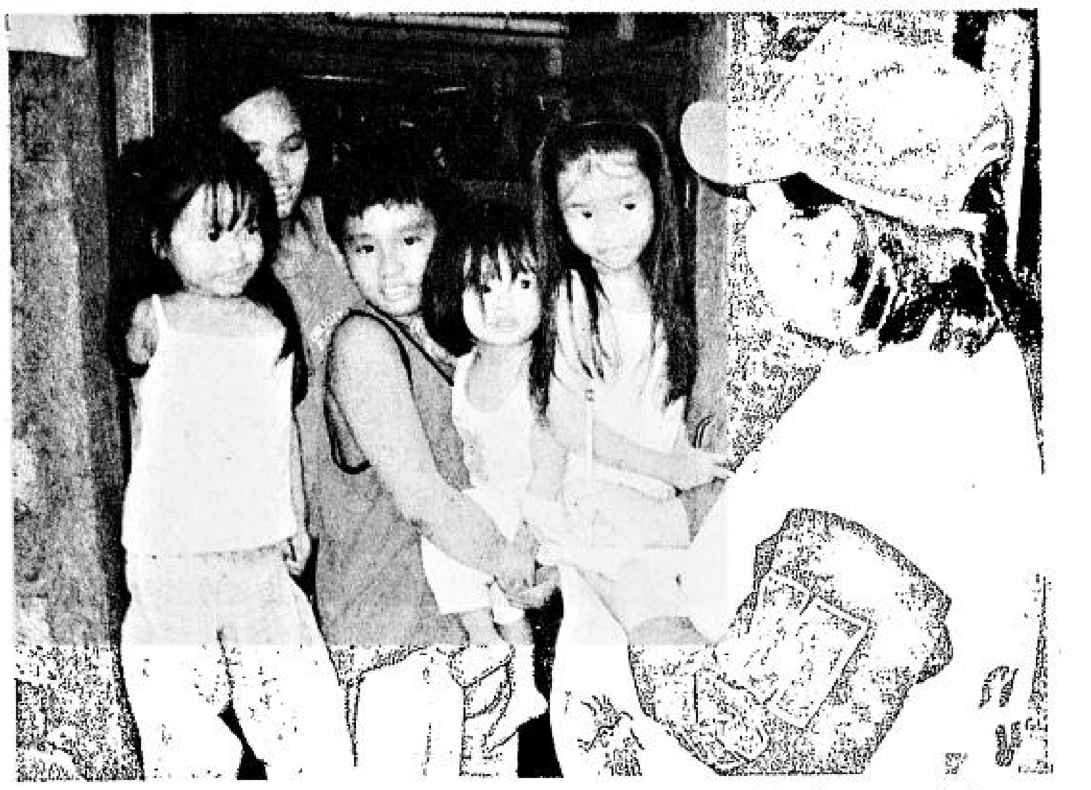
The provision was part of the fare hike order for taxis approved by the LTFRB on Sept. 30.

Bautista had also announced plans of the transport department to issue an order that would legalize the operations of the AUV Express before Christmas.

The order that would define the existence of the AUV Express would direct the air-conditioned FX to fill out the seats from the terminal and drop all passengers to the end point or another terminal.

This meant the FXs could not pick or drop off passengers outside of the yet to-be designated 380 terminals for 190 routes in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

FX VS LTFRB/ A19



A FAMILY health volunteer talks to a mother in Marikina about the merits of ligation as part of a door-to-door family planning campaign. The drive also seeks to correct misconceptions about methods utilized to promote awareness about the effects of uncontrolled population growth. ROGER CARPIO

Marikina spreads word on family planning

By Luige del Puerto

A CITY in eastern Metro Manila risks censure by the Catholic Church by embarking on an aggressive program on family planning, with women residents of depressed areas as primary targets of its campaign.

Seventeen family health coordinators were sent out yesterday to find out, among other things, how many women in the city practice contraception, and how many want to practice contraception but do not, for one reason or another.

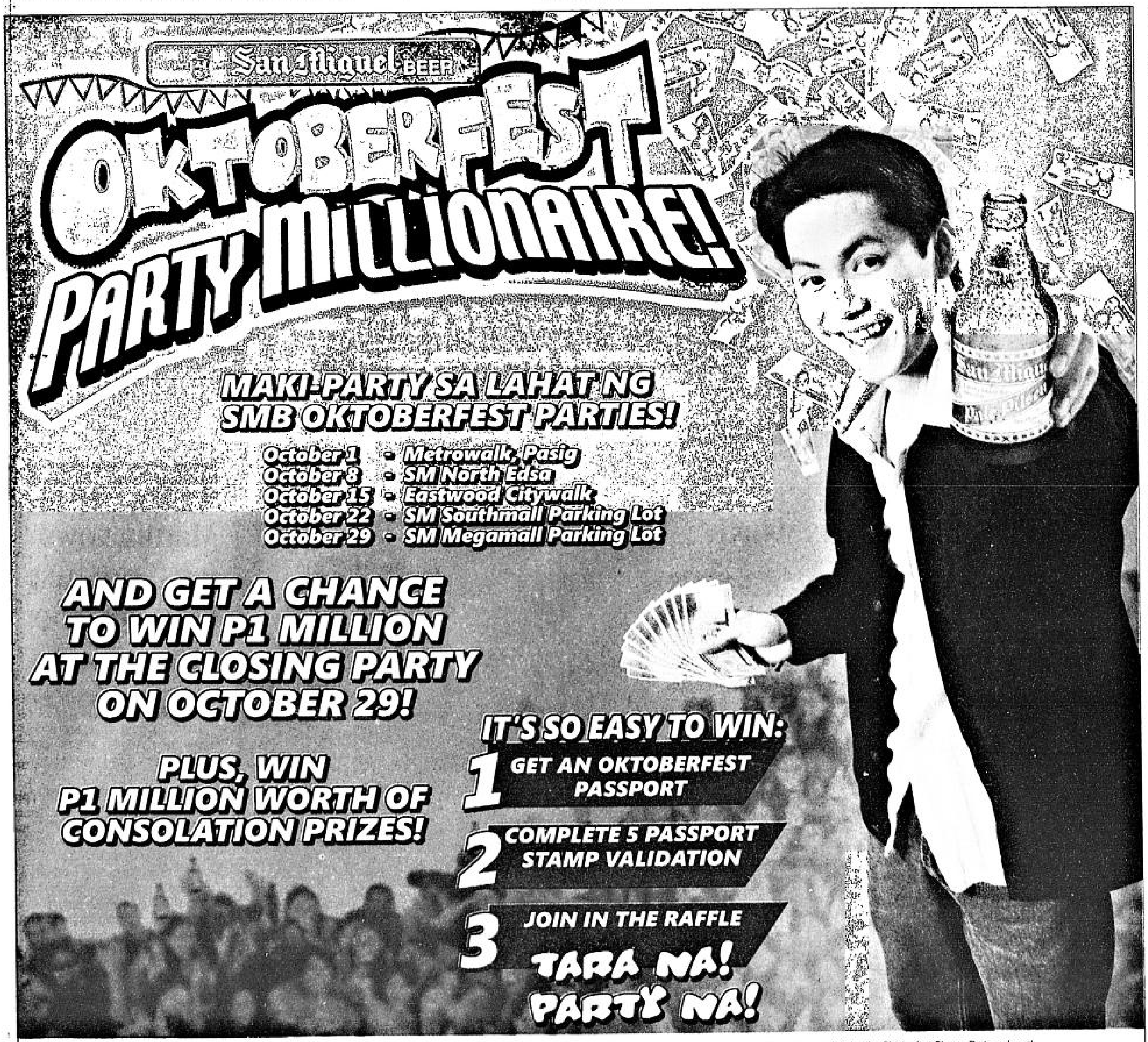
Armed with survey sheets and abundant knowledge about a woman's body, the volunteers, who are paid P2,000 a month for their efforts, are the country's family planning warriors.

One of them is Winnie Cuadera, 54. The 14th of 22 siblings, Winnie knows too well the difficulties of growing up and sharing everything from food, space and clothes with her brothers and sisters. But since her father was a mining engineer with a considerable income, Winnie considers herself luckier than most.

"The rice had to be measured, the food equally divided," she said. When she got married, Winnie vowed to limit the number of her children. She had a ligation after bearing her fourth child in 1979.

Now, it is her turn to share her experiences, and to prod mothers to

MARIKINA/ A19



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1. Get an official Oktoberfest Passport from 7-Eleven outlets, Andok's outlets, Mini Stop outlets, on-premise outlets (bars and restaurants), the car stickering promo, selected publications or at the Oktoberfest Kick-off Party (Metrowalk, Pasig).
2. Passport holder must purchase 3 cups of PP Draft beer (P40.00 each cup) in each of the party venues. This entitles the Oktoberfest Passport holder a corresponding stamp validation.
3. Oktoberfest Passport holder who can complete 5 Passport stamp validations in the ff. Oktoberfest party venues is entitled to join the raffle.
   a. October 1 - Metrowalk, Pasig
   b. October 8 - SM North Edsa Parking Lot
   c. October 15 - Eastwood Citywalk
   d. October 22 - SM Southmall Parking Lot
   e. October 29 - SM Megamall Parking Lot
4. Oktoberfest Passport holder may also avail of 1 free stamp via a) Call-in radio stations (JAM 88.3, K-lite 103.5, WAVE 89.1) or b) Purchase of T3 Magazines.
   a. Call-in Radio
      i. Stations will be given pre-stamped stubs. Upon prompt of DJ, listeners will be asked to call the station. The first 10 callers, will be given the pre-stamped stubs which they can attach to their Oktoberfest Passport.
   b. T3
      i. For the month of October, 20,000 copies of T3 magazines will have pre-stamped stickers which readers may attach to their passport.

* Oktoberfest Passport Holders may only have 1 PRE-STAMPED STUB OR 1 STICKER ONLY in their passport.

5. The validated Oktoberfest Passport completed with the participant's name, address, birthday, telephone number and signature will be the official raffle entry. Entries can be dropped at designated drop boxes which can be found in the Closing Party (SM Megamall Parking Lot). The grand raffle draw will be on the same day, on the same venue.
6. There will be one lucky winner each for P1Million, P500,000, P250,000, P100,000, P75,000, P50,000 and P25,000 in cash prizes tax-free.
7. Winners will be announced during the Oktoberfest Closing Party and must be present during the event to claim the prize. Otherwise the said prize will be forfeited.

DISQUALIFICATION RULES

1. All employees of SMC as well as agencies of SMB Pale Pilsen and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity will be disqualified from joining.
2. Prizes will be forfeited if the "winning consumer" is not present during the time his/her name is announced. Said prizes will be raffled once more until a qualified consumer is drawn.
3. Specially marked stamps will be utilized to protect consumers from professional joiners with malicious intentions.
4. Only consumers who are 18 years old & above are qualified to join in the promo.
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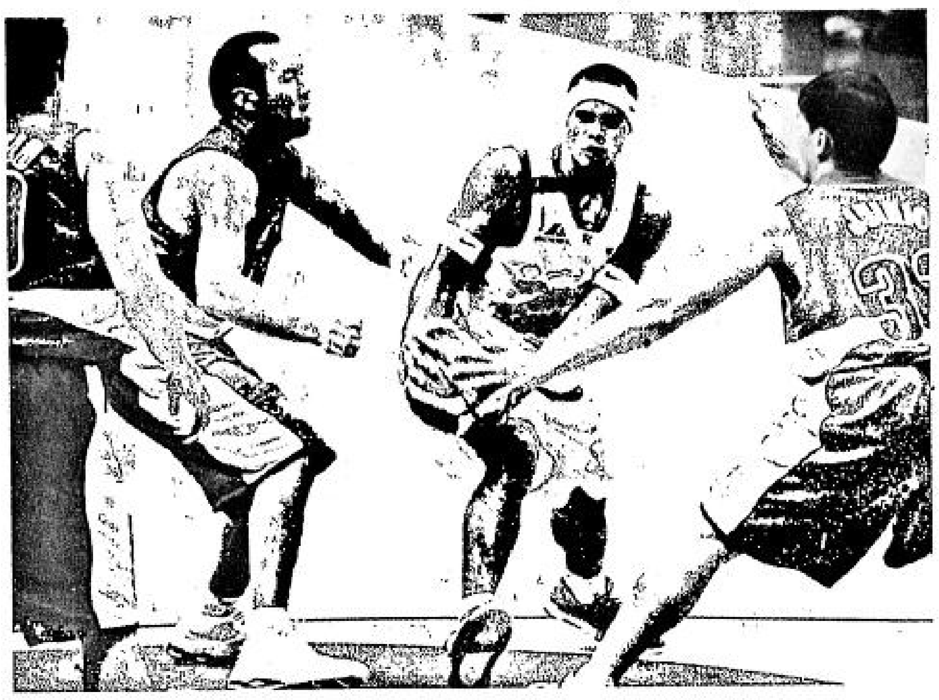

NO YOU CAN'T: Rudy Hatfield, Jeffrey Cariaso and Poch Juinio (from left) of Coca-Cola gang up on Ronald Tubid of the Shell Turbochargers during their game yesterday. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

One more year with La Salle for Mac /A22

Tiger secretly weds longtime GF /A23

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Tigers apply brakes to win

By June Navarro

COCA-COLA abandoned its running game in the second half to repulse Shell, 91-83, last night in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Coach Chot Reyes realized it was a mistake engaging the Turbochargers in a battle for speed and cooled things down for his Tigers, who responded well in the final half.

"We want to pressure them and set a fast-paced game, but it turned out to be a mistake. So we did what any good team does by adjusting to the situation," said Reyes.

The Tigers lagged behind, 32-17, in the first period as the Turbochargers masterfully ran their high-velocity offense, racking up 17 fast-break points while mocking the Tigers' full-court press.

"We thought we're fast enough but they (Turbochargers) proved to be much quicker. This was the first time in my coaching career that my team gave up 17 fast-break points in a single quarter," said Reyes.

GAMES TODAY
(*Zamboanga Coliseum*)
6 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel Beer
GAMES TOMORROW
(*Makati Coliseum*)
4:30 p.m.—FedEx vs Red Bull Barako
7:20 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Alaska

In the second game, Noy Castillo had 22 points while Jun Limpot added 19 as Purefoods brought Fiesta Conference champion Ginebra down to earth with a 104-87 whipping.

"We were able to prepare well in the off-season," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio.

Trailing at the start of the third period, 42-52, the Tigers turned to rookie Gary David, who poured seven of his 20 points in an 11-0 run, to put Coca-Cola on top at 58-54.

The scores:

First game:

COCA-COLA 91—David 20, Cariaso 15, Hatfield 14, Morano 12, Reavis 8, Juinio 6, Abarrientos 6, Antonio 6, Hugnatan 2, Wainwright 2, Lao 0.

SHELL 83—Tubid 15, Ferreria 13, Alvarez 13, Legaspi 13, Mamaril 13, Dela Cruz 9, Jackson 5, Sta. maria 2, Cruz 0, Bajar 0.

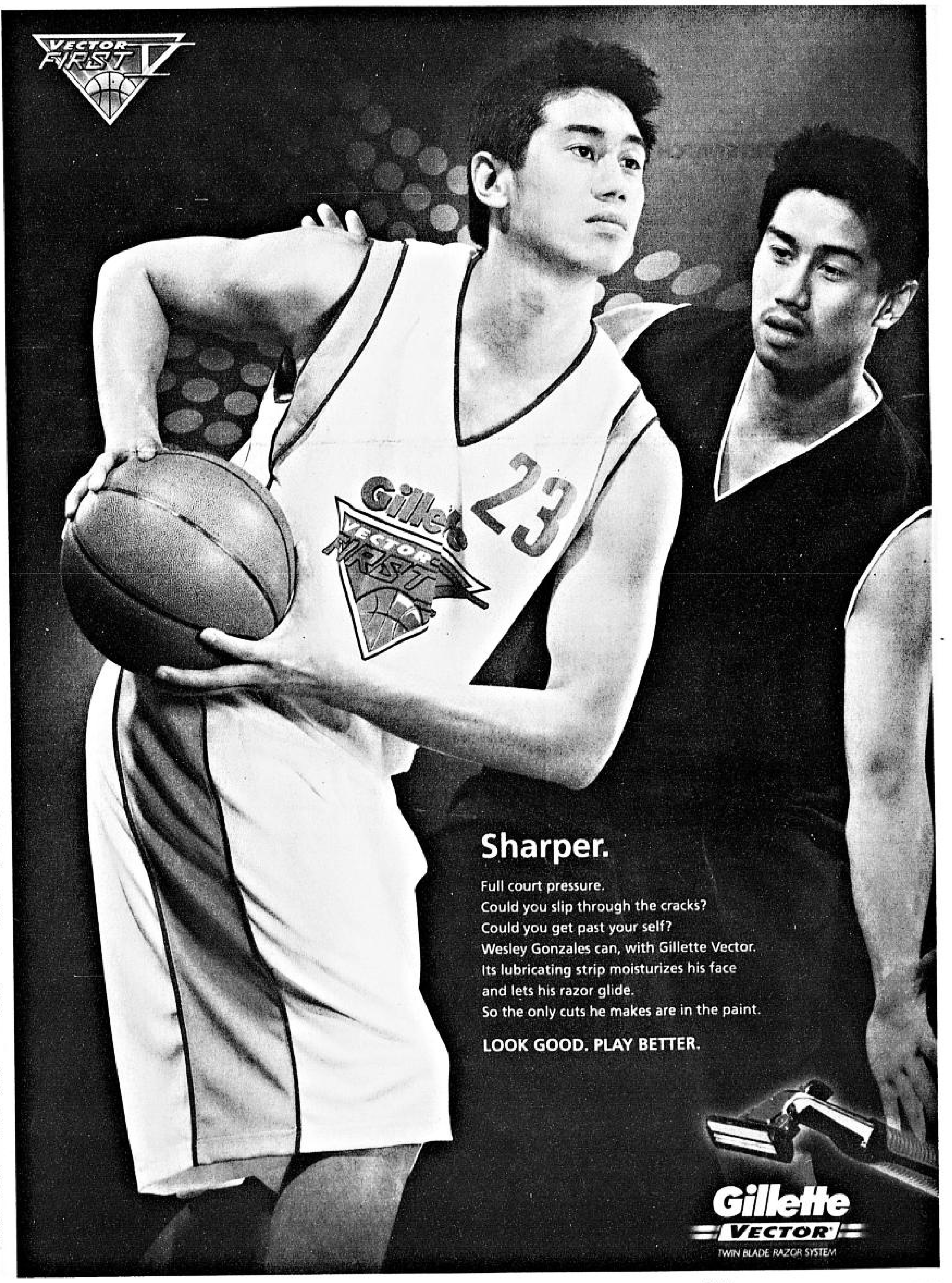
Quarters: 17-32, 42-52, 72-67, 91-83.

Second game:

PUREFOODS 104—Castillo 22, Limpot 19, Raymundo 17, Yap 11, Yee 9, Artadi 8, Patrimonio 5, Hrabak 4, Evangelista 4, Demape 4, Realubit 1, Simon 0.

GINEBRA 87—Caguioa 20, Hellerbrand 16, Adducul 10, Menk 10, Santos 10, Noble 8, Salvacion 6, Calpito 5, David 2, Dimaunahan 0, Ballesteros 0.

Quarters: 19-17, 47-40, 79-56, 104-87.



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Dandan, Narvaez sustain ITF run, gain semifinals

HOMEGROWN hopes Kyle Joshua Dandan and Miguel Narvaez downed separate rivals yesterday to reach the boys' singles semifinals in the Phinma Group Futures Foundation International Tennis Federation (ITF) Juniors Circuit at the Yñares Socio-Cultural Sports Center.

The third-ranked Dandan breezed past No. 8 Taiwanese Chang Chien-yuan, 6-2, 6-1, to advance against Korean qualifier Kim Sung Ho, who scored a 7-6 (2), 6-3 upset win over second seed Taiwanese Lien Chia-chu.

Narvaez, on the other hand, outclassed Korean qualifier Hong Hwi Jin, 6-2, 6-2, and will meet top seed Taiwanese Chang Huai-en, a 6-1, 6-1 winner over unranked Malaysian Razlan Rawi.

In the girls' singles, top seed Korean Chin Seul Ki blasted fifth seed and first leg champion Japanese Ayumi Okuma, 6-0, 6-0, to reach the semifinals of this event sanctioned by the Asian Tennis Federation.

Chin will meet third seed American Veronica Li, who rallied past unranked Japanese Natsumi Yokota, 5-7, 6-2, 6-0.

Second seed Filipino-German Anja Vanessa Peter, runner-up in the tournament's first leg, struggled past seventh seed Korean Jeong Yoon Young, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, to forge a semifinal showdown with unseeded Taiwanese Tsan Sze-yin, a 6-1 6-1 winner over Taiwanese qualifier Tai Chin-chin.

In the girls' doubles, top seeds Lin Jing-chi and Hsu Tzu-chen of Taiwan downed locals Nikki Manalo and Michelle Pang, 6-0, 6-0, Nguyen Thuy Dung of Vietnam and Kung Wei-fang of Taiwan defeated locals Ivy de Castro and Noelle Conchita Zoleta, 6-2, 7-6 (1), and Korean pair Chin Seul Ki and Kim Ju Eun beat locals Trudy Amoranto and Melissa Orteza, 6-2, 6-1, to earn second-round berths.

10 sports still eyeing SEA Games berths

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TEN more national sports associations—from shoo-ins tennis and weightlifting to longshots ice skating and wall climbing—will attempt a backdoor entry to the 2005 Southeast Asian Games roster of events during the SEAG Federation meeting here on Oct. 11-12.

Some 30 officials from the 11 SEAG member-countries are expected to arrive over the weekend to attend the two-day meeting aimed at finalizing the number of sports and their respective events.

The federation has already approved 34 sports, with the Philippine Olympic Committee setting a target of no more than 400 gold medals to be disputed.

The six other sports hoping to make it at the last minute are squash, lawn bowls, powerlifting, bodybuilding, muay thai, soft tennis and wall climbing.

Of these sports, only weighlifting and bodybuilding carry a promise of gold medals for the country, which is bidding to wrest the overall crown in its third hosting of the biennial event.

Though the country's ice-skating teams have been winning abroad, the sport faces difficulty getting the approval of other member-nations.

The cash-strapped Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) had earlier decided on reducing the number of events per sport as an additional cost-cutting measure. The proposed events in shooting (18) and wushu (28) are expected to be pruned although both are potentially rich sources of gold for the host country.

CARDONA: Help La Salle keep its crown. PDI PHOTO

One more year with La Salle for Cardona

By Dennis U. Eroa

BAD news for La Salle's basketball rivals.

Marc Cardona, the Most Valuable Player of the recent La Salle-FEU UAAP finals, confirmed yesterday that he isn't going to join next year's Philippine Basketball Association draft.

Instead, Cardona, whose explosive plays and leadership boosted the Archers back on top in the UAAP, will play out his fifth and last season for the Taft-based dribblers in the 68th edition of the league.

"No, I'm not turning pro next year. I'll play one more year and try to help La Salle keep the UAAP crown," Cardona told the PSA Forum Tuesday at the Manila Pavilion.

The presence of the 6-foot Cardona augurs well for the Archers, who are expected to ward off tough challenges from vastly improved University of the East, University of the Philippines and Ateneo next year.

With an almost intact lineup, La Salle is the team to beat next year.

Although bullstrong Jerwin Gaco and Mike Gavino will no longer be around next year, the Archers have a solid nucleus made up of Cardona, Joseph Yeo, JV Casio, Junjun Cabatu, Ryan Araña and Rico Maierhoffer.

Coach Franz Pumaren, who has decided to leave the Archers because he has nothing more to prove, described Cardona as "my MVP," after the Archers won Game 3 of the best-of-three series on Sept. 30 against FEU at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cardona made the mythical five, after losing out to FEU's Arwind Santos in a closely fought season MVP race.

Unlike Cardona, the 6-foot-4 Santos, regarded by PBA scouts as the leading all-around collegiate player, is expected to join the pro draft next year. Santos has a similar one-year eligibility to play for the Tamaraws.

"Arwind is turning pro next year," said business manager Dondon Monterverde, who cited economic reasons for his ward's decision.

SPORTSWATCH

Air Philippines tryout for PBL team

AIR Philippines, one of two newcomers in the PBL, will hold a three-day tryout starting today at the Tanduay Gym in Quiapo. Though the season-ending Open Championship starts two weeks from now, coach Lawrence Chongson remains hopeful he can form a competitive team in Air Philippines' maiden campaign in the country's premier amateur league. Chongson said only players drafted in the rookie and dispersal draft last Tuesday and free agents are allowed to join the tryout which starts at 1 p.m.

Manotoc's PAGDF backs Arevalo Cup

THE 2005 Caddies' championship to be known as the Arevalo Cup has gained a major backer in the Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation. Tommy Manotoc, chair of the PAGDF and general manager of the Calatagan Golf Club, threw his support behind the tournament and offered the championship layout in Batangas and other club amenities for free. The 55-year-old Manotoc, who recently won the Asia Pacific Senior Amateur title in Singapore, also agreed to help organize the tournament and make the Arevalo Cup one of the first projects of the PAGDF. The tournament is spin-off of the old Uratex championship of the family of the late Robert Cheng. A former caddy at the old Muni links in Intramuros, Arevalo almost played with Manotoc for the Malacañang team in the Interclub in the late '70s. They missed that chance when Arevalo sought greener pastures abroad. The organizing committee of the Arevalo Cup, which will be played in the final week of January, holds office at the Calatagan Golf Club. For inquiries, call Dave Hernandez (0917) 8425275, (0917) 8425257, fax (0919) 5470619 or e-mail arevalocup@yahoo.com.

Morales leads Breeder of the Year race

UP-AND-COMING Jong Morales (JJM Sikatuna Farm) of Marinduque leads the race for this year's title of Luzon Gamefowl Breeders Association's Breeder of the Year plum after a solo victory in the Thunderbird-supported LGBA 2004 Stag Series first leg at Roligon Mega Cockpit and Araneta Coliseum. Morales scored 6.5 points on 6 wins and 1 draw to outclass 109 other entries in what is considered to be the toughest circuit ever. Just half a point behind Morales are Esting Teopaco (EGT Stinger) of Tarlac, Councilor Tony Boy Tabora (Art J - Tuba), engineer Noel Zoleta (Top of the Line), Benjie Lim and Carrie Chua (Banahaw II) and Manuel Lui (Great Wall).

7-stag derby draws 37 entries

THIRTY-SEVEN of the NCA's finest were present on Oct. 5 at the Araneta Coliseum in the fourth installment of the NCA 7-Stag Derby series. Patrick Antonio's PPBG Sagupaan Complexor 3000; Firebird-II of Biboy Enriquez; and GE Mapalad Mulawin Dominato or the Escalano Bros. topped the event with 3-0 cards. The second round starts at 4 p.m. today also at the Big Dome. Coming in at second is Salamander of Rey Diamante with two wins and one draw.

Fujian cagebelles outclass PMI quintet, share top spot

THE MOTOR Star Motor Cycle-Fujian Team had another stroll in the park in the form of a 106-62 drubbing of Philippine Maritime Institute Tuesday to grab a share of the lead in the 2nd National Women's Invitational Championship at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Chinese cagebelles stormed to a 32-13 first-quarter lead behind power forward Zheng Zhoeng, who led all scorers with 28 points.

With Wu Shu Mei and Zheng Xiaojing joining the scoring fray in the second quarter, the Motor Star team built a huge 55-28 halftime advantage over the reigning champions in the Colleges and Universities Sports Association (Cusa).

It was the second straight win for the visitors, who posted a 98-57 rout of the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) Selection on opening day of the tournament organized by the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

The Fujian cagebelles shared the lead with the RP Women's Team.

In the first game, PMI barged into the win column following a 117-60 victory over BSU.

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Cusa-PMI vs Naascu Selection
4 p.m.—Fujian vs PSCUAA-BSU

RP riders pass HK to bag 3rd in Indon tour

THE RP-Pagcor Casino Filipino Trade team ran a brilliant tactical race in the Dji Sam Soe Tour of Indonesia Tuesday to wrest third overall from the Hong Kong riders after the eighth and penultimate lap from Jember to Banyuwangi.

Bernard Luzon, who won Stage 3 of the 1,503-kilometer bikefest, finished 17th in the four-man second pack with a time of two hours, 26 minutes and three seconds over the 102.70-km stage to anchor the Filipino riders.

And with teammates Joel Calderon and Lloyd Lucien Reynante finishing 20th and 21st, respectively, with identical times of 2:26.08, the Filipinos finished fifth in the stage to wipe out Hong Kong's 1:31-minute lead entering Tuesday's lap.

The RP bets grabbed third overall with an aggregate time of 99:31.32. They are now nearly 10 minutes ahead of Hong Kong.

Greenfields Fresh Milk (99:10.46) and Poligon Sweet Nice (99:23.14) kept their 1-2 spots in the team standings.

Autocross Invt'l limited-edition trophies

UNIQUE limited edition fiberglass trophies will be awarded to the top three winners of the second Castrol Autocross Invitational this Saturday at the Parking Lot of the SM City North Edsa. The trophies are designed by artists Willie Dandan and Mel Mancenido in collaboration with Symtechs' Obet Zaballa, Atoy Body Kits and Max Meyer Paints. Premium Castrol oil products, gift certificates, high-end special items from A-toy Body Kits, Concept One, H & R, Xenon Bulbs, Big Shot Billards, PLDT my DSL and driving shoes from KIX will be awarded to the top placers. Races will be staged in the Newbie, Novice FWD Stock Carburated, Novice FWD Stock Injected, Novice FWD Modified and 15 other classes.

Brunei brouhaha

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IT IS always nice to look at things on a positive note. This attitude comes in handy when problems stare us squarely in the face.

Take the case of the recent Brunei brouhaha involving PBA teams. Brawls marred the tournament that also drew a team from Korea. What was conceived to be a goodwill series had turned into a series of ill winds. Not only were players hurt. Egos were pricked. National pride put on the spot.

But then, instead of looking at it negatively, it should be viewed positively. Almost always, it pays to focus on the lessons learned instead of the mistakes made.

Sure, there were mistakes in Brunei.

Like, putting two teams in the same hotel (Red Bull Barako and Korea). That is a no-no. Why the PBA leadership allowed that to happen boggles the mind. Even in our out-of-town games, it's standard operating procedure for opposing teams to be billeted in separate hotels. Passions could be carried from the hardcourt to the hotel and could pose risks to players, if not coaches and team owners.

But the most glaring mistake in Brunei was the absence of Filipino referees in the tournament. Not to belittle the oil-rich country not far from Palawan, but Brunei is never known to be a basketball country. Thus, it is almost inconceivable to find homebred referees qualified enough to officiate high-powered games, such as the ones played by PBA teams pitted yet against a foreign power like Korea.

Look, wasn't Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio bodily carried out of the court by game officials after he had merely tried to point out an observation to the referee?

It didn't look good at all, didn't sit well with the world stage of basketball.

And did they not also throw out an entire team—Red Bull Barako?

You throw out a player for unsportsmanlike conduct, OK fine.

A team walks out, OK fine.

But throwing out an entire team? Uh-oh.

That's like seeing GMA throw the entire American Embassy staff out of the country because an American consular officer or something has addressed the First Gentleman "Honorable Jose Pidal" in a party hosted no less by Mike Arroyo himself. Even if the American were drunk, still GMA's action would not have been justified. Hey, this is not no-man's land, where sometimes, the fault of one is the fault of all.

OK, Enrico Villanueva punched a Korean he deemed was guilty of playing dirty. Villanueva said he did that because he couldn't bear watching the Korean hurt his teammates. He said he hit the Korean when he got an elbow in the neck. That triggered a melee and an aborted game.

That same night, Red Bull transferred to another hotel to avert further trouble. And because Brunei is so peaceful a nation it almost has a zero crime rate, the hardcourt rumble was big deal.

It soon became a police matter.

Villanueva found himself in the police station for questioning, especially so that the Korean had filed a complaint.

The affair had become a diplomatic joust.

Finally, it was settled when Villanueva apologized for his misdeed.

Just when everybody thought it was over, a report stating that Villanueva was jailed became headline stuff of a local paper. It was an item as false as the hairdo of Larry Henares.

Still and all, the chief lesson learned here is, the next time we send teams abroad, let's make sure the hosts are well-equipped with not only the technical aspect of organizing, but they must also be well-versed with the rules of the game, PBA-style.

Bottom line is, we should be always hands-on even in the nitty-gritty aspect of any tournament where our teams are participating, local or international.

As the PBA slogan so says, "Game *ko ito!*"

***

FASTBREAK. Rob Dix, the chicks king of Pangasinan, is guest of honor and speaker today at the opening of the Mangatarem National High School sportsfest. The jolly British hubby of Rose, whose two towering sons are among the stars in the Mother Goose cage team of Dagupan City, is sure to inspire his listeners wishing to make it big in sports someday. All the best, Rob, and yes, take it away!

Bigger golf show opens tomorrow at Megamall

NEW equipment from the world's biggest manufacturers, the latest in apparel and many more will be on show in the ninth edition of the Philippine International Golf Show opening tomorrow at the SM Mega-Trade Hall 2 in Mandaluyong.

Forty companies will put up for viewing in 100 booths products never seen yet on the local market.

Exhibitors are also holding a special sale and other promotions during the three-day show organized by the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines together with exhibit manager Fairs & More and sponsored by Casino Filipino, Nivea and Premier Wine.

Award for Jenny

Jennifer Rosales, who clinched her first LPGA title in the Chick-Fil-A Championship earlier this year, will be bestowed a GDAP achievement award during the opening rites at 9 a.m. Her mother Lourdes will receive the award for her.

JR Gonzales, Miguel Tabuena and Dottie Ardina, three jungolf stars who scored big victories in major tournaments in the United States recently, will also be honored as Personalities of the Year.

National Golf Association of the Philippines president Benny Gopez and Batangas Vice Gov. Ricky Recto have been invited to cut the ceremonial ribbon together with GDAP president Gerald Raymundo.

Informative seminars on specialized topics will be conducted by the Philippine Turfgrass Association tomorrow and Saturday.

Many new products

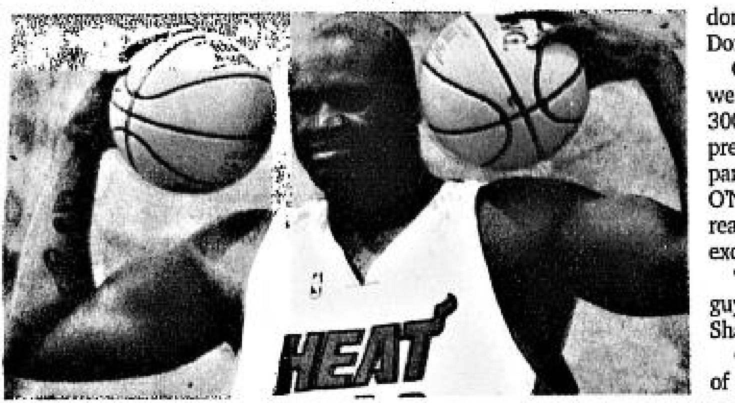
"Every year, we feature new technology and products, so this show will really offer a lot of new things," said Raymundo.

The participating companies:

ACRO Golf, Aetna Enterprises, Adidas Phils., Ayala Greenfield Estates, Besa's, Bravo Ristorante, Casa del Mar, Casino Filipino/Pagcor, Citibank, CPM Golf Corp., Direct Link, Dunlop Slazenger, Electrobus Consolidated/Callaway, Gainers Marketing, GG&A Club Shares, Golf Holidays, Golf House, Golf King, (Kaizen), G&W Club-Shares, Heritage Golf, IGRI Industries, Kart Plaza, Lexber Holidays International, Makati Golf Club, Master Sports Corp., Golf Gallery, Ford Libis, MST Golf, Nivea, PacSports, Pinnacle Distributors, Premier Wines, Royal Northwoods, Schering Plough, Solar Entertainment, The Golfers Club, Tivoli Royale, Vantage Systems, W.Eagle, Wilson Sports.

Miami feels heat early

MIAMI—With Shaquille O'Neal's ultra-recognizable mug among nine new faces on Miami's current roster, Heat coach Stan Van Gundy expects to deal with some growing pains during training camp.


DON'T let the smug look fool you. The Miami Heat and Shaquille O'Neal still have a lot of bonding to do before the season starts. REUTERS

And that's why Van Gundy wasn't bothered Tuesday, when the first formal practice of the O'Neal era featured an array of passes sailing by unsuspecting teammates and cutters moving to the wrong spots.

"We've got to all learn to play together. We've got to get everybody on the same page, playing the same system," Van Gundy said.

O'Neal, an 11-time All-Star and three-time NBA Finals MVP, who was traded to Miami from the Los Angeles Lakers on July 14, is certain things will begin to click before the Heat's Nov. 3 regular-season opener at New Jersey.

"It's going to be fun, it's going to be interesting," said O'Neal, who's averaged 27.1 points over his first 12 NBA seasons.

In Charlotte, Emeka Okafor quickly is learning the dos and don'ts of being a rookie. Rule No. 1: Don't promise to dunk on O'Neal.

Okafor made that mistake last week at a news conference with 300 schoolchildren to promote a pre-season game between his expansion Charlotte Bobcats and O'Neal's Miami Heat. Getting little reaction from the crowd, he tried to excite the kids.

"Come on!" he yelled. "Don't you guys want to see me dunk on Shaq?"

Charlotte management, aware of the TV crews in attendance, immediately cringed. In the days since then, the No. 2 pick in the NBA draft has taken a ton of ribbing about it.

"Will I dunk on Shaq? The likelihood of that happening is very small," he said. "You've got to put in perspective where I said that." *AP*

SCOTTIE Pippen retires with one great thought: Michael Jordan never won any of Chicago's six titles without his trusty sidekick. REUTERS

Scottie says g'bye

DEERFIELD, Illinois—Scottie Pippen played the sidekick to basketball's greatest star, creating a partnership the Chicago Bulls parlayed into an NBA dynasty with six titles in the 1990s.

Pippen's career came to an end Tuesday as he announced his retirement following 17 years in he league.

"As I stand here and as I look back, I don't think Michael (Jordan) had any championship trophies without me," Pippen said of a basketball relationship that was mutually beneficial. *AP*

Woods weds secretly

SANDY LANE BEACH, Barbados—Golfing superstar Tiger Woods wed girlfriend Elin Nordegren in a lavish sunset ceremony at a posh resort on Tuesday, reported People Magazine.

WOODS and Nordegren: Lavish ceremony AFP

The 28-year-old Woods and the former Swedish nanny Nordegren, 24, exchanged marriage vows in the biggest of four tents set up at the Sandy Lane resort.

Notable guests included former basketball stars Michael Jordan and Charles Barkley. A small army of security guards kept onlookers and the curious at a distance.

"He didn't act like he was going to get married," People quoted a source as saying. "He was very relaxed, like this was any other day for him." The decorations included 500 roses at the end of the aisles and a four-tier wedding cake. *AFP*

Star-studded cast in Philtobo races

TWO-leg Triple Crown winner Empire King, comebacking High Octane and emerging star Real Spicy head the star-studded fields in their respective divisions in the keenly awaited 5th Philtobo Grand Championship Day on Oct. 17 at the Santa Ana Park.

The event also features classy filly Cover Girl, recent stakes winner Dandansoy, former TC leg champions West Bound, Success Story and promising newcomers One Vision and Lamborghini, making it the biggest gathering of the country's popular gallopers in one single day.

Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr., president of the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization (Philtobo), said six major races will be contested during the Championship Day showcasing the growth of Philippine breeding and racing industry.

They are the Mitra Cup Juvenile Colts, Mitra Cup Juvenile Fillies, 3-Year-Old Colts, 3-Year-Old Fillies, Philtobo Open and the Classic.

The race, backed by the Philippine Racing Commission, Philippine Racing Club, PCSO, Herma Farms, Magic Millions Australia, Unilever and Motolite, will be shown on Oct. 17 on Sports Plus cable channel at 9 p.m. Philtobo director Manny Viray will host the show.

Empire King, who captured the Ongpin Cup and Horseman's Cup in the recent TC Series, heads the 3YO Colts (1,600 meters) cast. After dominating the Juvenile Colts contest last year, Empire King will be challenged this time by Shadowfax, Stallone, Fear Factor, Nothing to Declare and Semper Spirit.

High Octane, impressive victor in the 3YO Colts last year, tries his luck in the Classic (2,050 meters) where he will face Success Story and veterans Lord of All and Art of Rose.

Expected to get a share of racing fans' attention is the highly touted 2-year-old Real Spicy who is an early pick to prevail in the Juvenile Colts. Also declared in the 1,500-meter event were War Alert, Smokin' Red, Montezuma and Sir Henry.

Cojuangco Cup titlist Cover Girl, who is on a four-win run, joins the 3YO Fillies (1,500m) where she battles Moab, Cool Runnings, Elite, Concorde and Paramount.

West Bound, Dandansoy, Favorite Girl and Lyonnais lead the local challenge against imports Ouzo, Real Slew, Catwalk Pia, American Dame and Mavista in the Philtobo Open, while Lamborghini and One Vision aim for another 1-2 Esguerra Stable finish when they run in the Juvenile Fillies that also drew Victoria Peak, In Command, Constant Queen and Unrivaled.

Niles added that the 6th Philtobo Horse Show will be held on Nov. 29, also at the Santa Ana Park.

Twins take 1-0 lead vs Yankees; Sox up

NEW YORK—Johan Santana and the Twins escaped trouble with the help of a record-setting five double plays, Jacque Jones homered in his first start since the death of his father, and the Twins beat the Yankees 2-0 Tuesday to win their eighth straight opener in a postseason series.

"I was able to throw the right pitch at the right time because I know my teammates can make some plays," Santana said.

Minnesota's Soul Patrol outfield twice denied the Yankees with jumping catches—left fielder Shannon Stewart saved one run and possibly two on Ruben Sierra's shot in the second, and center fielder Torii Hunter pulled in an eighth-inning drive by Alex Rodriguez at the top of the wall.

Hunter also threw out John Olerud at the plate in the second, completing one of the double plays by the Twins, who set a record for twin killings in a nine-inning postseason game.

The Yankees have dropped the first-round opener in three of the last four seasons—winning the series each time, but losing to Anaheim two years ago after leading 1-0.

In Anaheim, Curt Schilling pitched 6 2/3 effective innings, Manny Ramirez and Kevin Millar homered during a seven-run burst, and Boston beat Anaheim, 9-3, in Game 1 of the AL playoffs. *AP*

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Actress/singer still hooked on drugs

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

IT SADDENS me to hear that this very good actress/singer is back to her old ways. Did she ever really try to change at all?

My mom had endless shocking anecdotes about the actress. Like the time the actress requested a friend to hand-carry a video tape to her boyfriend in the US and it turned out drugs were hidden in the tape. The actress would also have pot sessions with her boyfriend and his live-in partner! Was she that blindly in love or did the drugs make her lose her sense of decency?

Well-meaning friends have helped the actress make a comeback. For a while, she clicks again but she can't sustain her momentum. Soon enough, she slips back to her drug dependency. During her younger years, it could have been just a phase; but now that she's already a veteran in show biz, it's appalling that she's still at it.

Recently, she had a successful concert series abroad. Her manager thought they had a good thing going until the actress let her junkie lover join her in the US so they could enjoy their vice together. The earnings they made from the concert just went down the drain. The actress lavishly provides for her boyfriend but does not even give a single centavo to her kids.

The helpless manager flew back to Manila while the actress opted to stay on in the US with her lover.

I wonder what it would take for the actress/singer to finally come to her senses? She badly needs professional help. Her drug problem has been dragging on for too long. I can almost see my ma shaking her head and saying, *"Si ------ talaga, oo! 'Di na nagbago."* If she won't help herself, who will?

GMA Network reacts

"DEAR **Dolly Anne,**

"This refers to your column in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on Sept 7, 2004.

We have deep respect for your mother and admiration for her legacy to the Philippine entertainment industry. For her contribution to our network, we are very grateful. In this light, we also believe that for an institution to use footage from your mother's show and pass it on as their own is regretful.

"It is for this reason that GMA Network Inc. exercised its lawful right to sue for copyright infringement for the il-

ACTRESS/ A25

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FAHRENHEIT 9/11 MTRCB Rating: PG 13

SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 5
SM Southmall Cinema 10
SM City Bacoor Cinema 2
SM City Fairview Cinema 3

OPEN WATER MTRCB RATING: PG 13

SM City Manila Cinema 7
SM City North Edsa Cinema 8
SM City Baguio Cinema 2
SM Megamall Cinema 3
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 7
SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 3
SM Southmall Cinema 3
SM City Bacoor Cinema 5
SM City Cebu Cinema 3
SM City Marilao Cinema 1
SM City Bicutan Cinema 1
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 2
SM City Tutuban Cinema 2
SM City Fairview Cinema 11
SM City Pampanga Cinema 2

THE PUNISHER MTRCB Rating: R 13

SM Tutuban Cinema 1
SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 1
SM City Fairview Cinema 7
SM City Pampanga Cinema 6
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 2
SM City Southmall Cinema 8
SM Bacoor Cinema 3
SM City Manila Cinema 1
SM City North Edsa Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 2

RAISING HELEN MTRCB Rating: GP

SM City Manila Cinema 6
SM North Edsa Cinema 4
SM Southmall Cinema 5
SM Megamall Cinema 7
SM City Fairview Cinema 10
SM City Baguio Cinema 4
SM City Pampanga Cinema 4
SM City Marilao Cinema 4

RESIDENT EVIL MTRCB Rating: R13

SM City Supercenter Sucat Cinema 4
SM City Fairview Cinema 4
SM City Cebu Cinema 5
SM City Bicutan Cinema 4
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 3
SM City Southmall Cinema 9
SM Bacoor Cinema 6
SM City Manila Cinema 4
SM City North Edsa Cinema 7
SM Megamall Cinema 5

SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: G

SM City Manila Cinema 2
SM City North Edsa Cinema 2
SM City Bicutan Cinema 3
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 6
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SM City Baguio Cinema 1
SM City Tutuban Cinema 4
SM Sucat Cinema 2
SM Dasmariñas Cinema 2
SM City Davao Cinema 1
SM City Pampanga Cinema 1
SM Megamall Cinema 1
SM City Fairview Cinema 8
SM City Cebu Cinema 2

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SM City Manila Cinema 3
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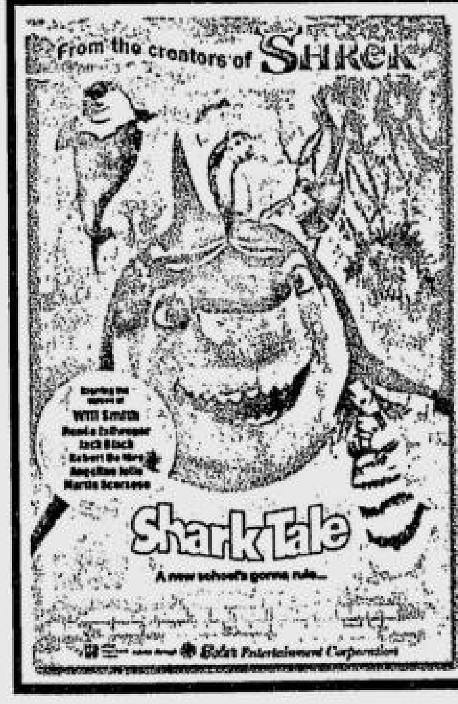

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Collision course

VIEWFINDER
Nestor U. Torre

WE recently viewed a special program on the "outsourcing" boom in India, with a specific focus on the call center phenomenon. Since the Philippines is trying to equal India's popularity in this regard, we trust that some Filipino viewers caught the show, and picked up valuable pointers and insights from it.

The special focus on outsourcing in India made the provocative observation that the call center's young employees were enjoying financial freedom and a generally Western lifestyle and expectations, and these new developments were positioning them on a probable collision course against old traditions and their parents' "dated" world view.

In addition, the outsourcing boom is a part of the globalization phenomenon, with both positive and negative aspects to it. Filipinos are also trying to cope with or ride out the gathering globalization storm, so it was interesting to see how similarly situated Indians were addressing the issue.

One of the most helpful insights provided by the special program was some Indians' adjustment of the term "globalization" into "glocalization." By this, they mean competing internationally need not run roughshod over local traditions and time-related ways of thought and action. Thus, the program showed a business initiative that tried to pinpoint local products that would appeal to the world market. Also, young employees were counseled on how to sound "international" while not forgetting their nationality.

The idea is to beat the "globalizers" at their own game. The Indian culture and ethos, which have survived and flourished for many centuries, have proven they have the resilience and deep roots to remain true to themselves, even while the global culture around them tries to swallow them up and homogenize them

COLLISION/ A27

Actress/singer...

From page A24

legal use of the 'Eye to Eye' **Vivialyn Dungca** exclusive video interview, as GMA Network is the duly registered copyright owner of 'Eye to Eye.'

"Sincerely yours,

"**Butch Raquel**, OIC, Corporate Communications, GMA Network Inc."

I rest my case then. What irked my brother, sister and me was that they didn't even bother to mention our mom's name at the height of the controversy. A contract is just a piece of paper. GMA 7 can take all the credit for "Eye to Eye" if that's the way they want it. The impact my mom left on all her followers is more binding to the heart.

Gail at the Big Dome

AFTER a series of shows in music lounges and bars these past few weeks, **Gail Blanco** will perform in a bigger venue—as one of the guest artists in the **Rico J. Puno- Basil Valdez** concert "The Way We Were" at the Big Dome tomorrow night.

'Tahanang Pinoy'

THE LONG-RUNNING home lifestyle show on ABC-5, "Tahanang Pinoy," is now shown nationwide.

"Tahanang Pinoy" features a comprehensive coverage of the housing situation in the country, as well as various topics related to the search for one's very own "tahanang Pinoy" and to the upkeep and maintenance of the Filipino home.

This October, the show will also be aired over the Mabuhay Cable Network all over the United States. "Tahanang Pinoy" airs Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. on ABC.

"Tahanang Pinoy" is produced by Scribble Works Productions (scribbleworks@skyinet.net).

For feedback, e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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4	SDDS	FENG SHUI 11:35 am 1:55 pm 4:15 pm 6:35 pm 8:55 pm
5	dts	RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE 12:10 pm 2:25 pm 4:40 pm 6:55 pm 9:10 pm
6	Dolby	OPEN WATER 1:05 pm 3:05 pm 5:05 pm 7:05 pm 9:05 pm
7	Dolby	THE PUNISHER 1:00 pm 3:40 pm 6:20 pm 9:00 pm

ARANETA COLISEUM

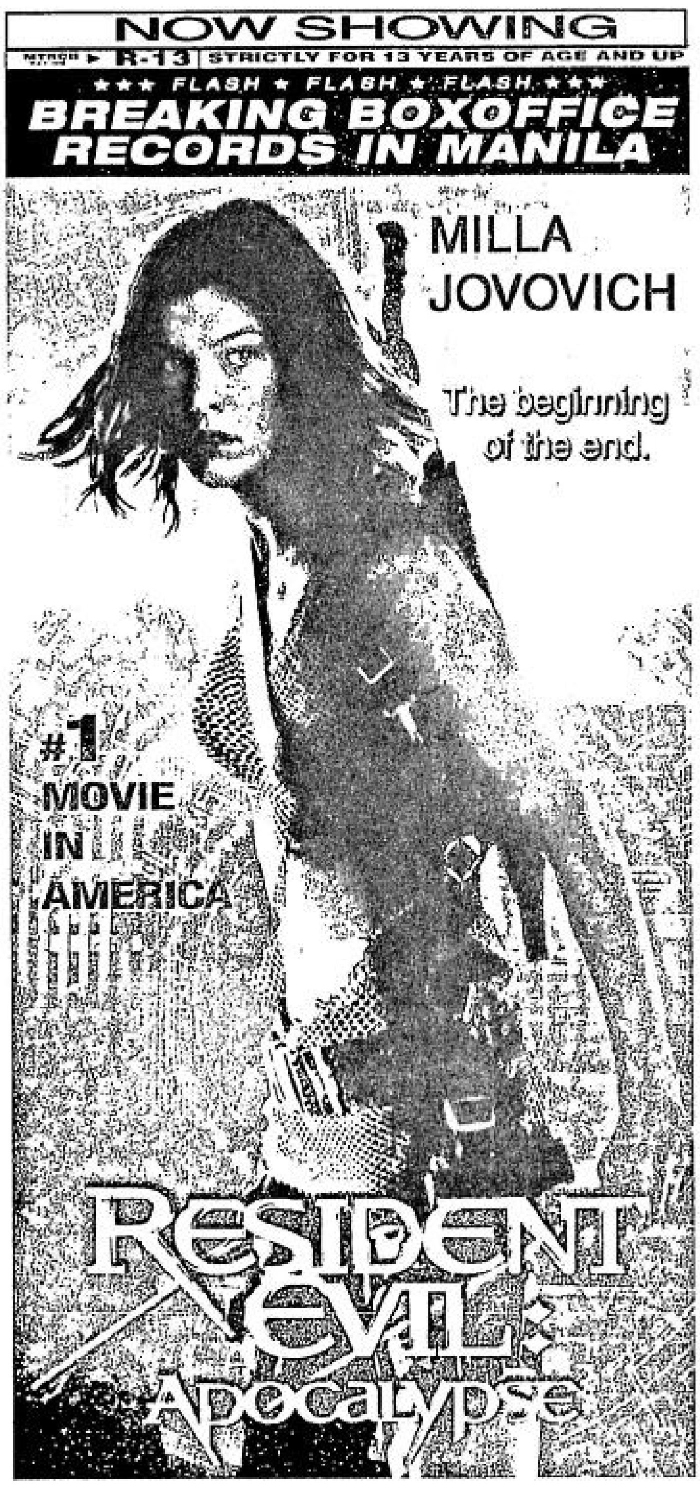
Oct 8	BASIL VALDEZ & RICO PUNO CONCERT
Oct 9	ALICIA KEYS 2004 WORLD TOUR
Oct 10	GINEBRA vs STA LUCIA 6:30 pm
Oct 13	SAN MIGUEL vs GINEBRA 7:20 pm
Oct 16	JASMINE TRIAS CONCERT
Oct 13	ALASKA vs FEDEX 6:30 pm
Dec 11	JULIO IGLESIAS CONCERT
Dec 25	DISNEY ON ICE : Princess Classics

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	HIBLA / MAPANUKSO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	KERIDA
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3 & 4	SHARKTALE / WIMBLEDON / OPEN WATER / PUNISHER
PREMIERE THEATRE	SHARK TALE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-2	CRISANTA, IBA KA
CINEMA-3	SECRETARY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	RAISING HELEN
CINEMA-6	VIP ROOM (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-7	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-8	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RESIDENT EVIL. APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SHARKS TALE
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	PUNISHER
CINEMA-12	OPEN WATER
CINEMA-14	WIMBLEDON
CINEMA-15	FENG SHUI
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	DODGEBALL
CINEMA-4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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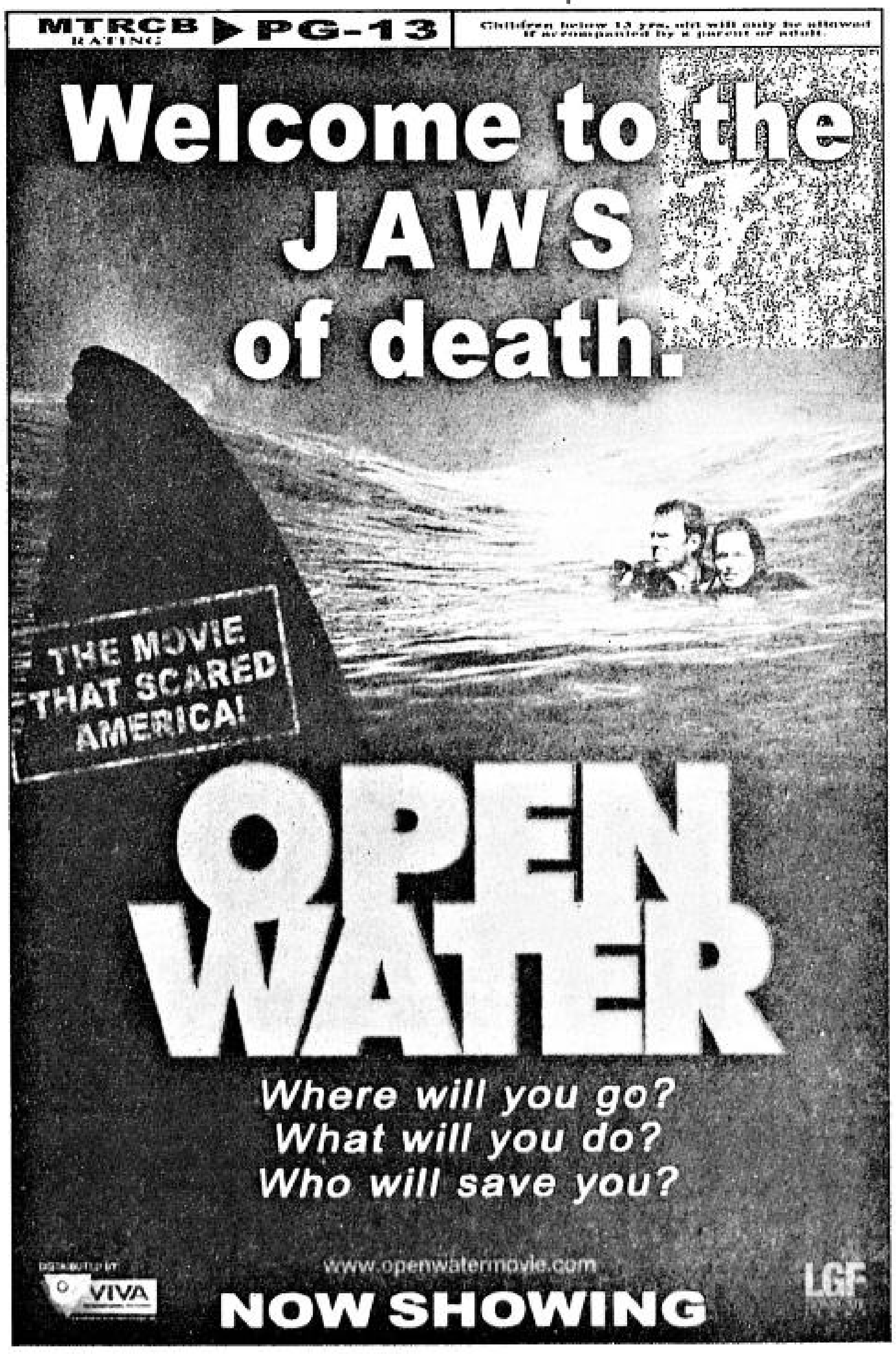
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GUARANTEED SEATS
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1	SHARK TALE	11:40, 2:05, 4:30 6:55, 9:30	GP
2	SHARK TALE	12:10, 2:35, 5:00 7:25, 10:20	GP
3	OPEN WATER	11:00, 1:05, 3:15, 5:15 7:20, 9:25, 11:10	PG-13
4	THE PUNISHER	11:55, 2:45, 5:35 8:25, 11:10	R-13

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

OPEN WATER PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	SHARK TALE GP 11:40,1:40,3:40, 5:40,7:40,9:40	SHARK TALE. GP 12:20,2:20,4:20, 6:20,8:20,10:20
WIMBLEDON PG13 12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50	RAISING HELEN GP 12:35,5:15,10:10 RESIDENT EVIL 2 R13 2:55,7:35	PUNISHER R13 12:00,2:30,5:00,7:30,10:05

MATINEE P81, MON. TO FRI., SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM., FREE SEATING.

star group of cinemas movie guide
IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA - SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
- Resident Evil 2
- Punisher
- Shark tale

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
- Resident Evil 2
- Krisanta
- Wimbledon
- Feng Shui
- Punisher
- Shark Tale

starmall LAS PIÑAS
Tel. No. 873.50.04
- Dodgeball
- Princess Diaries 2

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SHANG CINEPLEX

① SHARK TALE
FS: 11:45 AM, 1:50 PM, 3:55 PM, 6:00 PM
8:05 PM, LMF : 10:10 PM (G)

② WIMBLEDON
FS: 11:35 AM, 1:55 PM, 4:15 PM, 6:35 PM
LMF : 9:00 PM (Subject to MTRCB Rating)

③ OPEN WATER
FS: 12:40 PM, 2:40 PM, 4:40 PM, 6:40 PM
8:40 PM, LMF : 10:40 PM (PG-13)

④ PUNISHER
FS: 10:40 AM, 1:30 PM, 4:20 PM, 7:10 PM
LMF : 10:00 PM (R-13)

PREMIERE THEATRE
SHARK TALE
FS: 11:15AM, 1:20PM, 3:25PM, 5:30PM, 7:35PM, 9:40PM
(G)

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R13

CINEMA 2
SHARK TALE
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00
GP

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MUSIC MUSEUM

October 8 & 9	OGIE ALCASID	9:00PM
October 15 & 16	ALL ALL ABOUT MEN (PENIS TALKS)	8:30PM

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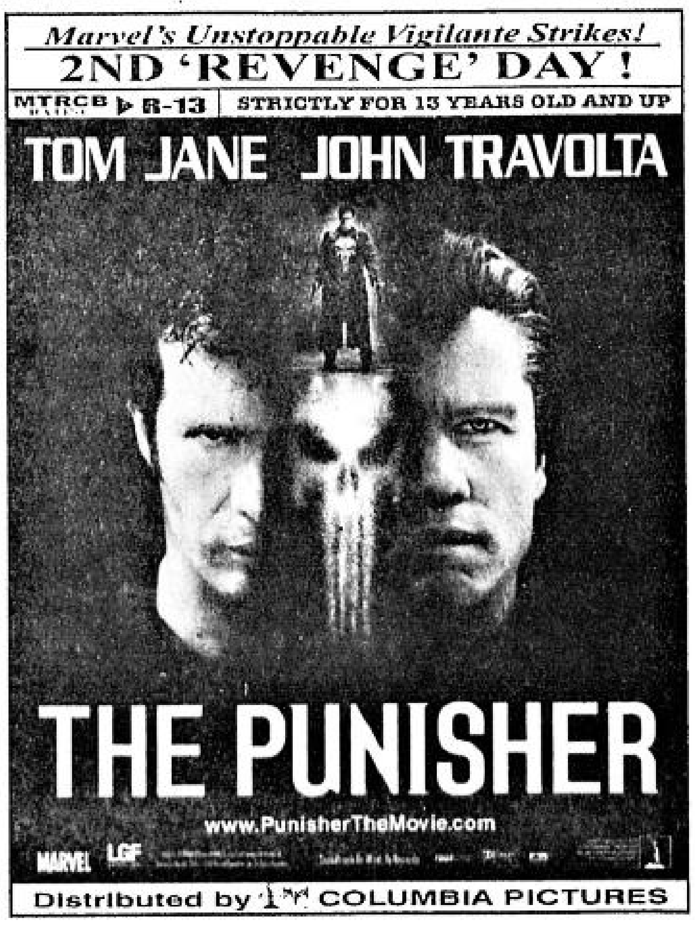
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GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16

CINEMA 1 THX THE PUNISHER 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

2 SHARK TALE 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	3 OPEN WATER 11:55, 1:55, 3:55, 7:55, 10:00	4 SHARK TALE 10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
5 THE PUNISHER 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30	6 WIMBLEDON 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	7 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8 FENG SHUI 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	9 RESIDENT EVIL 2 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	10 RAISING HELEN 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

Regular Price: P150 THX / P100/70 for two levels cinemas / P100 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 SHARK TALE 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50

2 OPEN WATER 10:30, 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30	3 WIMBLEDON 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:20, 10:00	4 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
5 THE PUNISHER 11:05, 1:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:40	6 FENG SHUI 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 8:50	7 RESIDENT EVIL 2 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 OPEN WATER 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	2 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 11:20, 1:40, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00

3 FENG SHUI 11:20, 1:40, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00	4 RAISING HELEN 11:20, 1:40, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00	5 SHARK TALE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 10:30
6 WIMBLEDON 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 10:30	7 THE PUNISHER 11:20, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30	8 RESIDENT EVIL 2 10:25, 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229 / 31
1 THE PUNISHER
2 OPEN WATER
3 FENG SHUI
4 SHARK TALE
5 THE PUNISHER
6 RESIDENT EVIL 2
7 RAISING HELEN
8 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY

Citisquare **MALABON** 288-0985/2575
1 GODSEND
2 FENG SHUI
3 SHARK TALE
4 JANDARA

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 SECRET WINDOW
3 GODSEND
4 FENG SHUI
5 RAISING HELEN

CAINTA 240-4661
1 OPEN WATER
2 THE PUNISHER
3 SHARK TALE
4 FENG SHUI

STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 THE PUNISHER
2 THE NOTEBOOK
3 OPEN WATER
4 FENG SHUI
5 SHARK TALE

DASMARIÑAS 852-2125 / 416-4332
1 THE PUNISHER
2 OPEN WATER
3 SHARK TALE
4 HEAVEN'S POND
5 SECRET WINDOW

ANGELES 892-2348
1 OPEN WATER
2 THE PUNISHER
3 THE NOTEBOOK
4 SHARK TALE

STARMILLS San Fernando Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 RAISING HELEN
2 KRISANTA...IBA KA
3 SHARK TALE
4 THE PUNISHER
5 OPEN WATER
6 SECRET WINDOW

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 THE PUNISHER
2 RESIDENT EVIL 2
3 SECRETARY
4 SHARK TALE
5 FENG SHUI
6 OPEN WATER

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 RESERVE
2 13 GOING ON 30
3 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
4 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5 THE NOTEBOOK
6 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY
2 SHARK TALE
3 JANDARA
4 13 GOING ON 30
5 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
6 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2

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ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4		GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 SHARK TALE	1 THE PUNISHER	1 RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE	5 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY	GUARANTEED SEATS 1 SHARK TALE 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15, 11:15	1 SHARK TALE
2 WIMBLEDON	2 SHARK TALE	2 WIMBLEDON	6 SHARK TALE	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 FAHRENHEIT 9/11 1:00, 3:10, 10:30	2 OPEN WATER
3 THE PUNISHER	3 WIMBLEDON	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE PUNISHER 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	7 OPEN WATER	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 OPEN WATER 2:20, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50, 9:40, 11:30	3 SAVED
4 RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE	4 FENG SHUI	4 RAISING HELEN		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 THE PUNISHER 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	4 RESIDENT EVIL: APOCALYPSE
5 OPEN WATER		GB1 GREENBELT 1		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 WIMBLEDON 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	5 13 GOING ON 30
		1 SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL For inquiries, call 526-1448			
		2 SHARK TALE 12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15			

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
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GREENBELT 2	GREENBELT 3
GREENBELT 2: MUSIC STYLES FEATURING PIDO October 7, 7:00pm to 10:00pm	SPANISH FESTIVAL: LETRAS Y FIGURAS PAINTING EXHIBIT October 8 to 15, Greenbelt 3 Lobby

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'I love you, Ali...

From page A28

tend to his band, Mojo Fly, and his studies. He lives by himself in Rio's house at Ecology Village in Makati City. He still has to begin mourning the loss of his mother.

Mom's favorite

For the longest time before Jayme and Claudia were born, he was his mother's favorite, Ali said.

"She called me 'my son,'" he revealed. "It was like an inside thing... her calling me my son, and everybody else called me 'my son.' 'So I think I was her favorite for a time. But when Jayme and Claudia came, we were all her favorites."

Ali said he got along well with Jayme and Claudia and with his stepfather, Charlie Cojuangco.

"Of course, we all got along well. With her as my mom, we were sure to get along well," he said. "What she wanted to happen, what she intended to happen was always for the best."

Yesterday, the third day after his mother died, "I spent most of the time talking to the media about what I felt, and answering their questions," said Ali. "They came here to my house and they would stick a camera in my face even if I had just gotten out of bed. I only had half the time to think about her deeply."

But he confided that he and the whole family had long been prepared to lose Rio, youngest sister of Miss Universe Gloria Diaz.

"When we found out about her cancer six years ago, the first time I knew about it, we were already devastated," Ali related. "Like she could go tomorrow. Every day, from that point on, it was like we were expecting it (the end). We were very prepared."

Growing up on his own

But Rio was more prepared for the eventuality than anybody else in the family, according to Ali.

"She wanted everything to be perfect before she went," he said. "She was one of those people who wanted everything to be perfect. But after one of my aunts told her that couldn't happen, she realized also that everything couldn't be perfect.

"She always worried about us. I told her to worry about herself and not be scared about the people and things that she would leave behind. Then she started to relax. But she would always keep on fighting, always fighting the cancer."

He said Rio wished he would be "more responsible and to finish my studies."

"You see, I grew up on my own half the time," Ali said.

After Rio and Hajji separated, Rio returned to Manila with Ali, who was then 9. She found work immediately as

'I LOVE/ A27

Collision…

From page A25

beyond recognition.

India can do that because its culture is distinct and tested. The question is, does the Philippines and its culture have what it takes to do the same?

'Amazing Race Experience'

THE YELLOW Team of **Gerry Acao, Cris Dadivas, Winnie Bragante, Soc Torres** and **Leo Alcantara** topped the Tare (The Amazing Race Experience) race last Sept. 25. Registration for the next two races is ongoing.

Supported by the Department of Tourism and the Philippine Tour Operators Association, Tare is a reality-video race to top-secret destinations, with the teams being followed by cameras documenting their every move.

The next races are on Oct. 23-24 and on Oct. 30. Call StreetPark Productions at 436-8882.

US elections on CNN

CNN is covering the 2004 US polls with these programming highlights: Oct. 9 at 9 a.m., the live telecast of the second presidential debate, at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.

Oct. 14 at 9 a.m., the third presidential debate, at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona.

Oct. 20 at midnight, "CNN Connects" presents a live townhall meeting from Washington DC, hosted by **Wolf Blitzer** and **Zain Verjee**. Candidates debate on election issues, with academics, journalists, commentators and members of the public talking about why and how the election matters to them.

Oct. 22 at midnight, a panel discussion on the elections hosted from Berlin by **Becky Anderson**. This forum from the heart of Europe features academics, journalists, expatriates, commentators and members of the public from across Europe talking about how and why the election is important to them. (November programs will be announced soon.)

'Animal Precinct'

ON OCT. 12 at 9 p.m., Animal Planet's "Animal Precinct" takes another look at the activities of New York's Humane Law Enforcement agents, who investigate crimes against animals. In this episode, undercover agent "H" looks into the case of a stray dog that has been bludgeoned to death by a crack addict.

Other cases involve a dalmatian that has been abandoned in an apartment, and two neglected dogs (an emaciated rottweiler and a spaniel with a severely swollen eye).

It is hoped that people viewing this show will learn to take better care of their own pets.

'I love you, Ali, I love you'

From page A26

host of "Eat Bulaga." After she married Charlie Cojuangco and moved to Negros, Ali stayed behind in Manila where he was raised by a *yaya* and his various aunts, Rio's sisters.

"But she would always see me every time she had the chance," Ali said.

Supportive all the way

After he finished high school, Ali went to the US to study graphic design at Cypress College in Orange County. He quit after a year, upsetting his mom.

"That was one thing," Ali said. "When I told her I didn't want to do art anymore and that I wanted to do music in Manila, she was upset. She was disappointed by my decision. Other people were asking me why I wanted to come back here, like it was a big leap. But later on, after she realized that doing music was really what I wanted, she told me to go ahead and supported me all the way.

"She didn't want me to be anything. She respected what I wanted to be in life and that was to be a professional musician. In many, many ways, she was supportive of it. She has also been an inspiration."

The one thing that Rio had wanted him to do was finish college, he said.

"She asked me to finish school, and I really intend to do that," he claimed. "It's just that now, the opportunity for me to be in a band is there. My theory is that I'd take that opportunity now. College will always be there… later."

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10am	animated short films with lecture	1 pm	values-oriented shorts films	11am	values-oriented short films
1pm	values-oriented short films			1pm	values-oriented short films
3pm	hari sa hari, lahi sa lahi	3pm	values-oriented shorts films	3pm	hari sa hari lahi sa lahi
5pm	bagong buwan with short films	5pm	bagong buwan with short films	5pm	bagong buwan with short films
6:30pm	zamboanga with short films			6:30pm	zamboanga with short films

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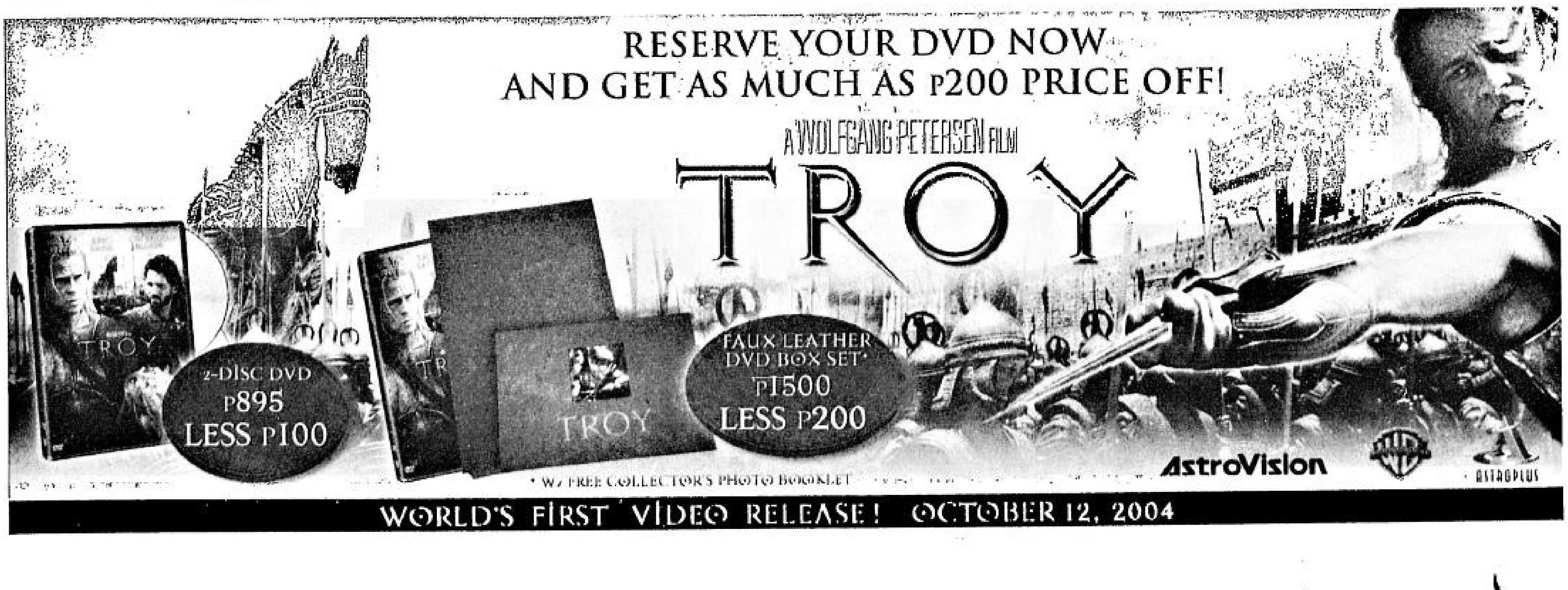
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'I love you, Ali, I love you'

By Nini Valera

THE LAST time Angelo Alejandro talked to his mother Rio Diaz was three days before she passed away, and he already knew that she was saying goodbye.

"All she said was 'I love you, I love you,'" Rio's son, also known as Ali, told INQUIRER Entertainment yesterday. "I could hardly hear her. Her voice was very faint on the phone. I told her the same thing, that I loved her, and I missed her. In a way, I was already saying goodbye to her.

"Just before she left (Manila in February to return to the US for treatment), she told me she was ready to go. I think that was very hard for someone to admit."

Rio bought him his first guitar, said Ali, who has a band called Mojo Fly. During a performance by his band in July last year, Rio surprised him by showing up at the venue to hear him sing a song by Linkin Park.

"I don't remember the song's title, but it was hard rock," Ali said. "She cried while I was singing, and that was funny because the song was hard rock."

Ali, 21, was the only child of Rio who was not by her side when she died last Monday of colon cancer at the Seton Hospital in Daly City. Claudia and Jayme, her children by former Negros Occidental Rep. Charlie Cojuangco, were by her deathbed, along with Charlie and some of Rio's siblings.

"I spent the whole month of August with her but I had to return here to finish some things," Ali said, explaining why he was not with her when she died.

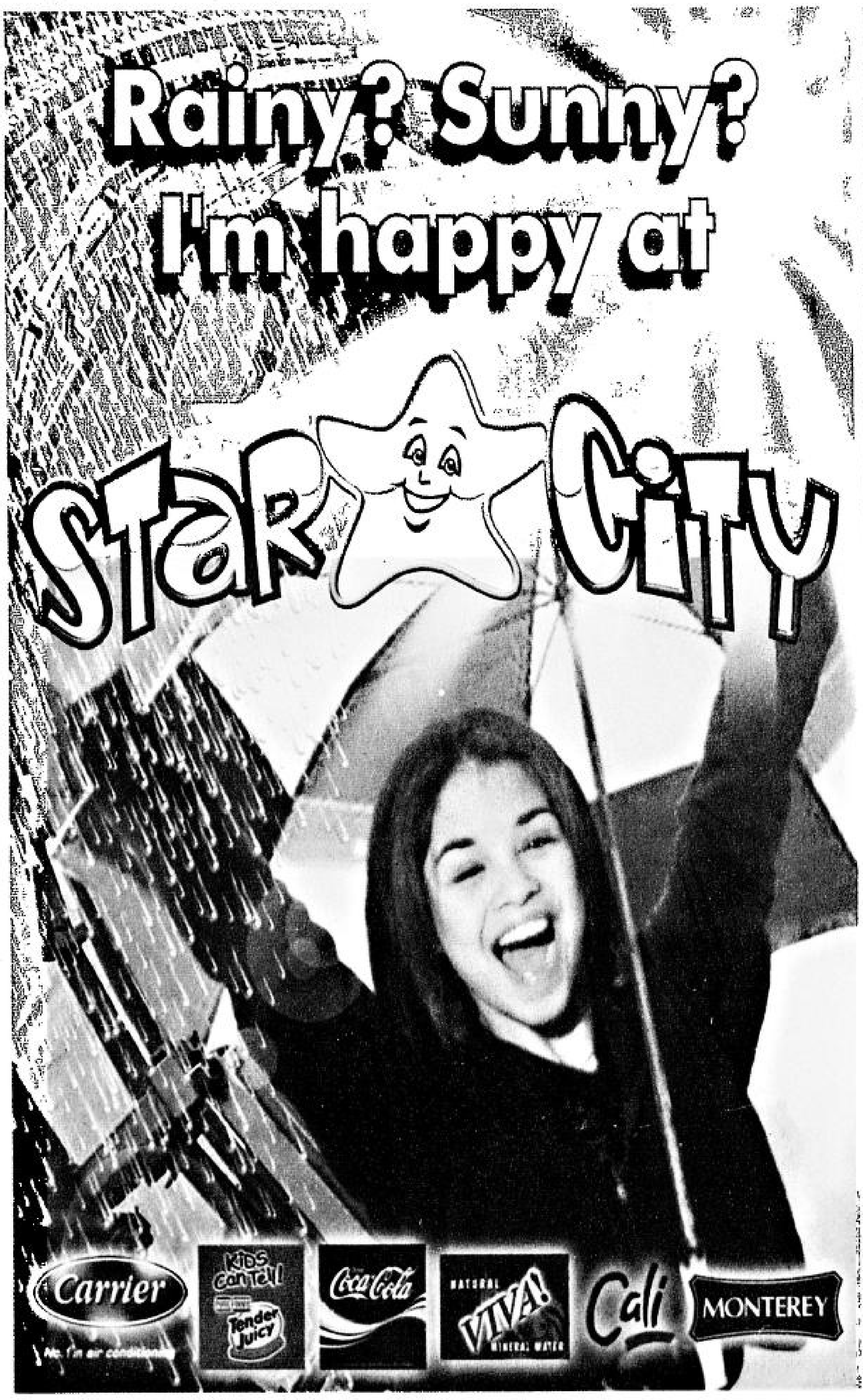
In late July, Rio checked in at the Stanford Hospital in Chicago. Ali surprised her the following month by coming to the US to spend August with her.

"Aug. 20 is her birthday," he said. "When I arrived in the US, I went straight to the hospital. She was already confined because she had fever, and they were thinking that this was it. But then, she jumped back on her feet. She already started walking around. She was even dancing a little."

Ali said he had to come back to Manila to at-

'I LOVE YOU/A26

THE LAST PICTURE. **Ali spent the entire August with Rio at the hospital in the US. She once surprised him by showing up to watch him sing with his band and she cried "although the song was hard rock," he says.**



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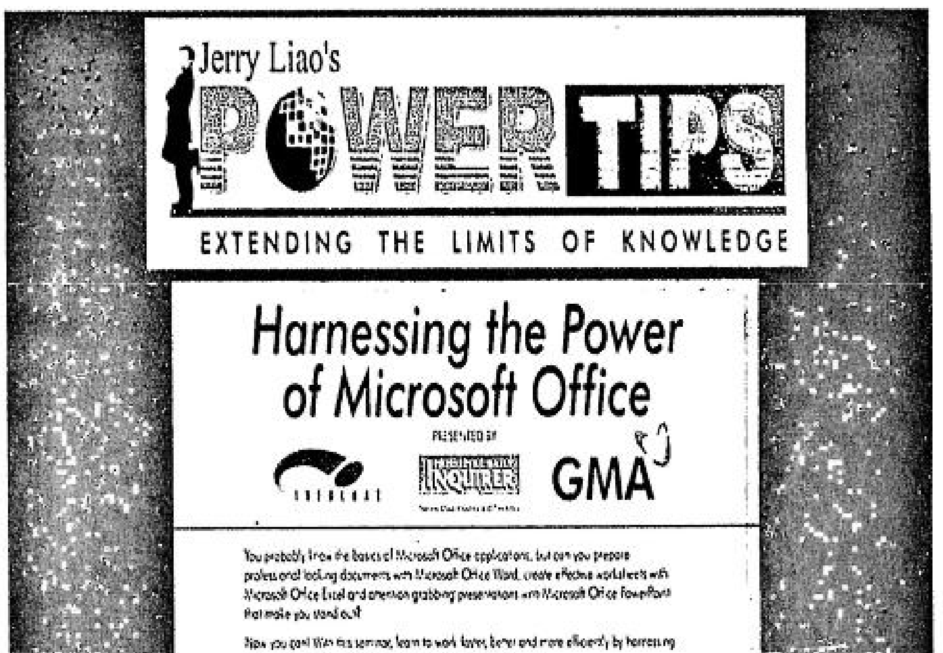

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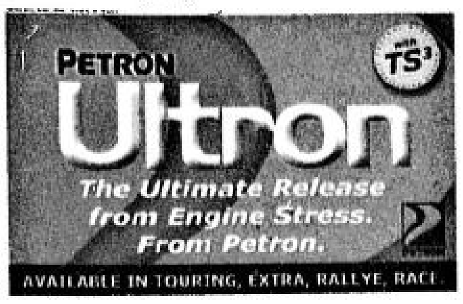
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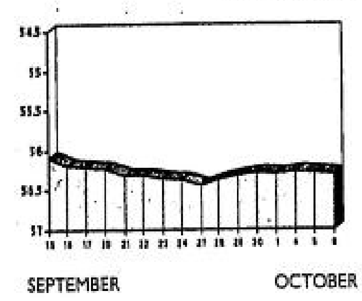

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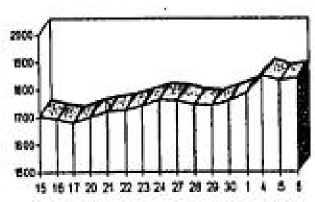
STOCK MARKET

Stocks rebound



(See stock market report on Page B5)

STOCKS rebounded yesterday as players snapped up food and drinks group San Miguel Corp., dominant phone firm PLDT and other blue chips expected to post strong second-half profits.

San Miguel's "A" shares, restricted to Filipinos, leapt 4.39 percent or P2.50 to P59.50 after Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage firm said it was considering a bid for a stake in Del Monte Pacific.

Its "B" shares, open to all investors, eased 0.7 percent or 50 centavos to P71.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), which is a quarter owned by Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd., rose 1.7 percent or P25 to P1,495.

Both San Miguel and PLDT are expected to announce sizeable profit growth when Philippine companies start reporting earnings for the third quarter later this month.

"Buyers positioning for the usual fourth-quarter window-dressing season moved in gradually in selected sectors, amid hopes for improved corporate earnings growth for the final leg this year," brokerage 2TradeAsia.com said in a client report.

"This is being supported by the IMF's upgrade on the country's growth outlook this year, which would cushion declines."

In its World Economic Outlook released last week, the International Monetary Fund projected Philippine gross domestic product would grow 5.2 percent this year after a 4.5 percent expansion in 2003.

But the IMF said the outlook would depend largely on the pace and quality of reforms. The government has set a GDP growth target of 4.9 to 5.8 percent this year.

The main stock index ended 8.32 points or 0.45 percent higher at 1,841.67 points, after a technical correction on Tuesday in the wake of the market's rise to its highest level since February 2000 on Monday. *Reuters*

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority has sounded the alarm bells on the need for Congress to pass at least three of the proposed revenue-enhancement measures of the Arroyo administration before year's end, lest the country suffer the consequences of a credit-rating downgrade.

According to Neda Director General Romulo Neri, the government has to immediately implement three to four measures to convince the international capital market and credit-rating agencies that the country has the political will and capability to address its fiscal problem.

Neri said that of the eight tax measures, Congress should at least pass the ones proposing an indexation to inflation of taxes on cigarettes and alcohol, the imposition of a performance-based lateral attrition for government agencies, a tax amnesty, and the rationalization of fiscal incentives.

"We need to pass those measures before the end of this year to send a positive signal that we are solving the fiscal problem. We believe the priority measures will be passed by Congress," Neri said in an interview with reporters after the Philippine Business Conference yesterday at the Manila Hotel.

Of the four measures, Neri said the most crucial was the indexation of taxes of sin products to inflation, which he said was being watched closely by the international community. The Cabinet has been strongly lobbying for the legislation of the proposal since 2001 because of the ill-effects of the perceived flaws in the country's system of taxing cigarettes and alcohol, but Congress had failed to act on the matter.

On the planned tax amnesty, Neri said it was necessary that it be passed together with the proposed annual submission of statements of assets and liabilities (SALs) of all taxpayers. The Arroyo administration wants to use the SALs to create a database, from which the government could detect tax cheats. The tax amnesty bill being pushed by the Arroyo administration's economic team has a provision requiring the annual submission of the SAL, but Congress dropped the provision saying it should be legislated as a separate bill.

The proposed lateral attrition is aimed at completing the government's program to streamline the bureaucracy as a means to cut expenditure.

The rationalization of fiscal incentives is intended to reduce the foregone revenue, which stood at more than P200 billion last year alone, due to the many tax- and duty-free privileges given to businesses. The Arroyo administration wants to remove incentives that are deemed no longer necessary.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas also raised a similar warning that the Philippines risked a credit rating downgrade if no revenue-enhancement measure is passed before the end of the year.

The central bank's warning was later on backed by Fitch Ratings, which said it would lower the country's credit rating if no significant reform was undertaken to address the country's fiscal problem.

A credit-rating downgrade will increase the government's cost of borrowings, in the process aggravating the country's already troublesome fiscal position.

Chinese firm moves $300-M project to Subic

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CHINA'S leading glass maker has decided to build a $300-million manufacturing plant in the Subic freeport, according to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said in September that China's Hebei Jingniu Group Co. Ltd. was looking for a possible site in Bataan for a planned industrial park, which would have the glass plant as anchor project.

Purisima said Hebei wanted a site with an area of between 100 hectares and 130 hectares for its Crystal Ball Industrial Park.

Outgoing SBMA Chair Felicito C. Payumo said Hebei's project—the biggest investment so far from mainland China—would serve as a magnet for more Chinese investments.

Payumo said SBMA would be providing more than 100 hectares of industrial estate to the glass firm and its allied companies.

He said SBMA had identified as a possible site in an area along the Redondo Peninsula where Shell Philippines Exploration BV built the foundation for its Malampaya platform off Palawan.

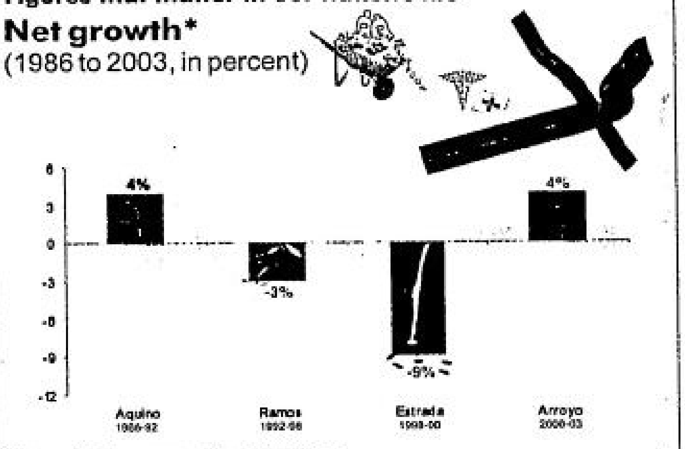
Payumo said the Redondo site was ideal for the glass factory, which would require the use of barges and other freight

CHINESE/B2

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Net growth*
(1986 to 2003, in percent)



*Net growth = Revenues minus Non-debt expenditures
Source: "Dimensions of the Philippine Fiscal Crisis: A roadmap to fiscal rehabilitation" by Rep. Joey Salceda

DESPITE widespread impression of extravagance in public spending, non-debt expenditure or spending on infrastructure and social services by the government fell to 11.69 percent of gross domestic product in 2003 from 15.5 percent in 1997. According to the paper written by Rep. Joey Salceda, the Arroyo administration "has been in austerity" since revenues grew by 7 percent while non-debt expenditure grew by only 3 percent. Revenues during the Aquino, Ramos and Estrada administrations grew by 20, 12 and 6 percent, respectively, while expenditures grew by 16, 15 and 14 percent. **Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research**

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Shin tax

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IN THIS tough job of writing in the privacy of my house, aside from being able to wear old underwear while working, I often derive immeasurable satisfaction from public officials.

Just last week, based on reports in all the major dailies of this starving country, the economic managers of this cute administration of Gloriaetta had nothing better to do.

And so they had to open their big mouths.

Doing so, I guess, would make it appear, at least in media, that they were still on top of things, although millions of us were going hungry.

According to the reports, as a policy, this cute administration would no longer borrow abroad to cover its gaping budget deficit.

Okay, it's a laudable policy statement.

Shortsighted, sure, but still laudable, if only for its being ridiculous!

* * *

WHAT will happen to this famished country if this overweight cute administration, all of a sudden, stops raising foreign exchange through borrowings abroad?

According to this veteran banker, O. V. Espiritu, who in banking circles is said to be the Bangko Sentral governor in-waiting, as mentioned time and again by current Governor Rafael Buenaventura, it is simply not good for the country.

He said that the national government has an obligation to help the central bank raise foreign exchange, and thus help stabilize the peso's exchange rate.

Translation (mine)—this chubby cute administration must be out of its mind!

If, all of a sudden, the national government stops its foreign borrowings, no way can this country ever survive the resulting shortfall in foreign exchange.

The new policy might sound like OPM to the ears of some anti-debt groups. Business does not want to hear any of it.

***

ESPIRITU, by the way, is the same banker who, a few years ago, was asked by this cute administration to join its economic team as finance secretary.

That was even before former Cabinet member Jose Isidro "The Whiz" Camacho relocated from the energy department to the finance department.

Even at that time, Espiritu personally believed that the finance department did need another banker at its helm.

Well, I also happen to think that, today, this country needs a banker at the DOF, as much as this country needed more Jose Pidal bank accounts.

* * *

ANYWAY, from what I hear, Espiritu already advised the advisers of Gloriaetta that, in looking for a new finance secretary, they should consider two things.

One, the new secretary must have enough political savvy, because he or she must push the much-needed tax measures in Congress.

And, two, he or she or it or whatever the gender, must have the guts to pursue the collection of all taxes due the government.

Based on these two criteria, a banker hardly qualifies.

Bankers only know how to raise money through their contacts in the international financial centers.

Massaging the egos of politicos and wrestling with corruption in the revenue agencies, surely, are not part of a banker's training.

And so it seems to me that, for the next finance secretary, we need someone short of being a goon. Well, okay, an "educated" goon!

Probably in the mold of JPE?

* * *

UP for another intense lobbying in Congress are the so-called "sin" taxes.

We label the taxes as such, because they supposedly try to discourage "vices," namely, smoking and drinking.

From what I gathered, our brave lawmakers already filed more than 10 versions of the new "sin" taxes.

One of these is the Yoda Venecia version.

That particular version bats for an indexation of the excise tax on cigarette, beer and liquor, which today is a "specific" tax, meaning, it's an absolute peso amount, and not a percentage tax of the retail or wholesale price.

Now, "indexation" only means, for the sake of Bong and Lito, the peso amount of the "sin" taxes automatically goes up along with inflation.

The DOF is siding with Yoda Venecia on that score.

The DOF does not have its own version of the "sin" taxes.

Basta, it does not want the other versions. It just wants Yoda's.

Well, this particular tax measure is a bit sensitive.

Big lobby money, in the past, went around Congress for the same tax measure.

I just don't know what group got to the office of Yoda first this time.

***

NEWS reports already showed the position of the biggest tobacco company in the world, the US based Philip Morris.

The company, which even got tax incentives from this cute administration, is pushing for a P1 across-the-board increase in the "specific" excise tax on cigarettes.

That's a wise move. Well, for the benefit of Philip Morris, it is!

In 1996, when the administration of Kuya Eddie forced the shift from "ad valorem" (percentage) tax to "specific" tax, that same Philip Morris was said to be behind a powerful lobby in Congress.

And so was its leading competitor in the local market, none other than Fortune Tobacco of taipan Lucio Tan.

Guess who won. Philip Morris, who else?

* * *

AS a result of the famous "shift," aside from the need to adjust the tax rate again and again, the government revenue from cigarettes failed to grow as expected.

In 1996, under an ad valorem system, Fortune's "Hope" brand was taxed an equivalent of 45 percent tax of the retail price. Philip Morris Menthol, at that time, was taxed 55 percent of the retail price.

After the famous "shift," Hope now pays an equivalent of 50 percent of the retail price, and Philip Morris, only 40 percent. Nice move.

So what does the P1 across-the-board proposal of Philip Morris mean to it?

Its premium menthol brand now sells at P25 per pack, of which P13 to P14 go to taxes. The P1 increase is not even 7 percent of the tax.

For other low-priced local brands, now taxed at P0.40 per pack, the increase is about three and a half times.

In short, under the Philip Morris tax proposal, small guys get it in the shin. Tsk, tsk, tsk—such wise guys!

***

ANYWAY, back to the policy of this chubby cute administration to avoid foreign borrowings, I only know that such borrowings also form part of the Bangko Sentral's international reserves.

With the help from the national government in raising foreign exchange, such as through borrowings, according to Espiritu, the peso is bound to depreciate.

In the long run, a peso depreciation is bad for the national government itself.

It means that it will have to pay even higher interest, in peso terms, on its existing stock of foreign debts.

Such a stock, by the way, is huge.

Thus, to Espiritu, if only to buy time for this country to develop enough to such a point it will no longer need foreign borrowings, the national government has to continue its bond flotation overseas.

But—and it's a big BUT—according to Espiritu, it's not all about foreign borrowings. We must also do the necessarily economic reforms.

Or else it's the debt trap for us all over again.

Chinese firm moves $300-M project to Subic

From page B1

boats to bring in raw materials and move out finished products for export via the Port of Subic.

The SBMA chief added that Chinese officials told him pharmaceutical companies from their country have already expressed intentions to set up their operations in Subic.

Last month, Purisima said Hebei's proposed industrial zone would include two on-line production lines for coated float glass, which means that the coating could be put on the glass at the same time that the glass is being made.

The business park would also have two high-technology rolling crystallite glass lines, one deep-processing line and another line that could combine the first two.

Hebei also wants to put up a 30,000 kilovolt-ampere power plant as well as a production line for plastic yacht, which would be the first in the country.

Purisima said the project was expected to break ground before the middle of 2005, when Chinese President Hu Jintao is scheduled to visit the Philippines.

The project is seen to create a total of 15,000 jobs for direct and indirect employment, he added.

Hebei's main products include a variety of float sheet glass, online solar control reflective glass, high-tech rolling crystallite glass with all kinds of color and specifications.

Its products are exported to some 70 countries in Europe, Asia, the Americas and Africa. However, products from the planned facility in Subic will be shipped primarily to Japan.

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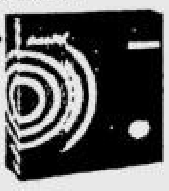

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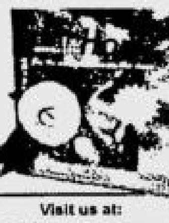

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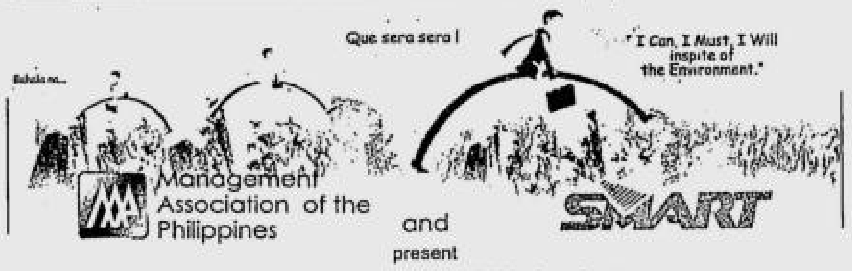

Bahala na...
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"I Can, I Must, I Will inspite of the Environment."

Management Association of the Philippines and SMART present
3rd MAP International CEO Conference
Conference Theme:
"Survive and Excel In Turbulent Times"
11 November 2004, Thursday
Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La

Speaker:
Mr. MARTIN P. LORENZO
Chair
Pancake House

Speaker:
Mr. CECILIO K. PEDRO
President
Lamoiyan Corporation

SESSION ON " SMEs: ONWARD AND UPWARD"
This session will present the opportunities, challenges and strategies of SMEs (small and medium enterprises which employ 98% of the workforce but generate 32% value added) in excelling in turbulent times. Given the backdrop painted by the earlier sessions, what are the Key Success Factors of smaller, nimbler firms? How can smaller businesses, which do not have the luxury of bigger infrastructures and access to funding and resources, build alliances with bigger firms and financial institutions to ensure business continuity? For those that graduate from small to medium or large, what strategies are employed to successfully manage the transition?

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Management Association of the Philippines

For Reservations:
Please contact the MAP Secretariat at <mapsec@globenet.com.ph>
751-1140 to 52 or
Conference Committee Chair
Francq G. del Rosario at < sixsigma@itextron.com >

MAYBANK ANNOUNCES ESOS FOR EMPLOYEES

The Maybank Group has just announced the implementation of an Employee Stock Option Scheme [ESOS] for its eligible employees including those in Maybank Philippines. The scheme provided for the allocation of Maybank shares to its employees who are given the option to purchase the stocks at a discounted price within an effectivity period. Employees opting to purchase the stocks can later transact or trade the stocks at the Stock Exchange in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where Maybank is listed. While such scheme was previously offered in other countries where Maybank is present, this will be the first time that Maybank is offering this stock-acquisition plan for all its employees in the Philippines, regardless of rank.

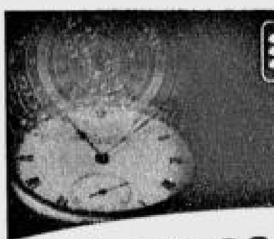
In announcing the scheme, Lim Hong Tat, President & CEO of Maybank Philippines, said that "more than an investment channel, the ESOS is one way to recognise the contribution of our employees towards the past and future growth of the Maybank Group. The ESOS was also envisioned to promote a high performance culture within the Group. But ultimately, the ESOS was meant for the long term: so that our people may have the opportunity to participate in the equity of Maybank and thereby, promote a shared vision among the stakeholders to further enhance shareholder value."

The Maybank Group recently announced a record performance in *pre-tax profits* of RM3.358B [PHP48.691B] for the fiscal year ending June 2004; resulting from higher incomes and lower loan loss provisions. Cited also was the improved results attributed to the profitability of all overseas operations -- including Maybank Philippines. Overall, Maybank's latest results translated into a gross return on equity [ROE] of 23.9% for the year, compared with 21.8% previously.

It is expected that Maybank's high rating and strong performance will continue. The Malaysian business newspaper *StarBiz*, in its September 2, 2004 issue, ran an article on Maybank, citing investment research house JP Morgan, which maintained an overweight rating on Maybank, as further raising its 12-month price target for the bank to RM13.50 from RM 12.68. JP Morgan also also raised Maybank's projected earnings for fiscal year 2005 and 2006 by 7% and 9%, respectively. On another note in the same article, AmResearch noted the increase in Maybank's interest income for the past three years and likewise forecasted its loans growth of about 5% for fiscal year 2005.

Maybank began its Philippine operations in 1997 and currently has 45 branches in key areas nationwide. Leading the Malaysian banking industry for the past several decades, Maybank is currently one of the top banks in Asia and worldwide.

Maybank



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2 months	2.625%	2.750%	2.875%	3.000%	3.125%
3 months	2.750%	2.875%	3.000%	3.125%	3.250%
6 months	2.875%	3.000%	3.125%	3.250%	3.375%
12 months	3.000%	3.125%	3.250%	3.375%	3.500%

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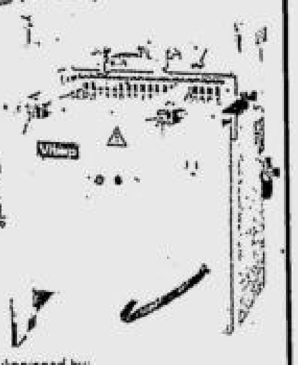

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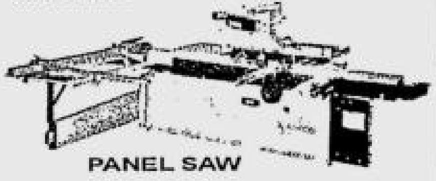

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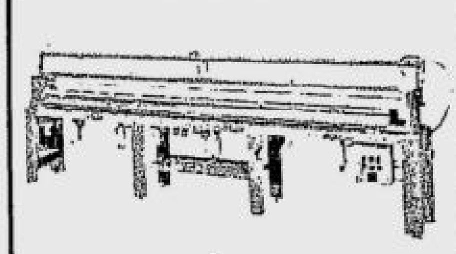

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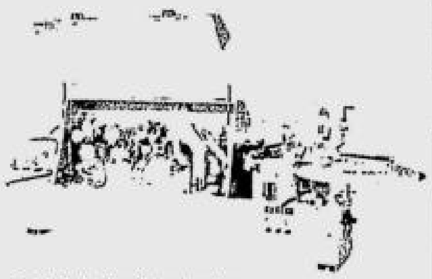

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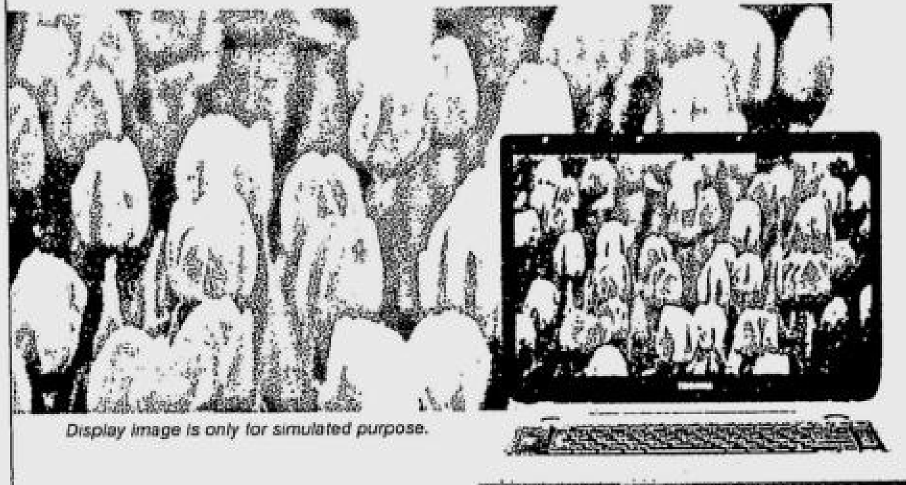

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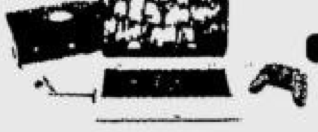

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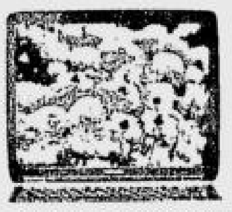

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- SRS TruSurround XT™ sound technology with internal stereo speakers
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- Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition
- Microsoft® Office OneNote™ 2003
- Toshiba ConfigFree™ Connectivity Doctor
- 15.0" (38.1cm) XGA TFT display
- Metallic silver chassis at 2.8kg
- 256MB DDR SDRAM/40GB HDD with shock absorber
- CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo drive
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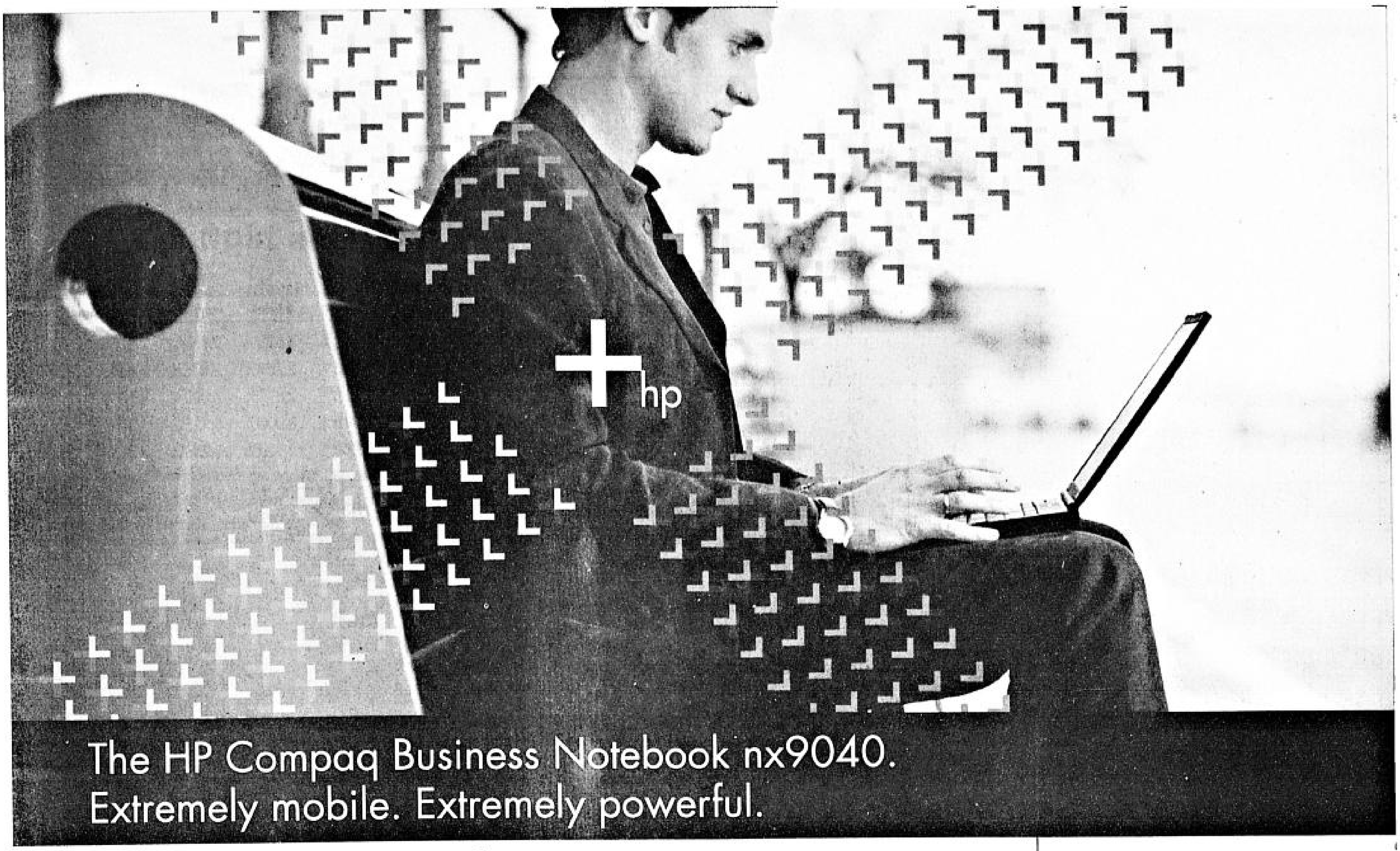

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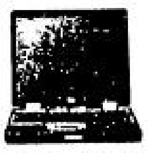

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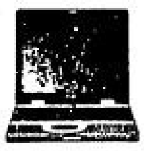

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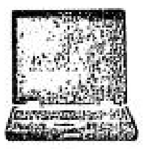
- Detachable keyboard with pointstick
- Integrated 16-bit Sound Blaster Pro-compatible stereo audio
- Three-year, Worldwide Limited Warranty (parts and labor)



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(As of October 6, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	120,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19.5	19.5	19	19	595,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	47.5	47	47.5	1,351,700
China Banking Corp.	530	530	530	530	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	43.5	43.5	43	43.5	12,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.43	0.44	1,190,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28.5	28.5	28	28	9,900
Philippine National Bank	22	22.5	22	22.5	30,800
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	5,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.25	24.25	24	24	28,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	195	195	195	195	80
Manulife Financial Corp.	2455	2455	2455	2455	180
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1660	1665	1660	1665	1,890
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.25	23.25	23	23	31,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.22	1.32	1.14	1.3	113,808,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1150	1150	1135	1140	17,990
Ipeople-Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	106,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.049	0.049	0.047	0.047	6,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.8	5,502,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	170,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	2,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1500	1505	1485	1495	268,750
Ivantage Corp.	0.68	0.74	0.68	0.74	28,760,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	4,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.25	111,300
Manila Electric Co. B	24.75	24.75	24.25	24.5	1,123,700
Petron Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	2.95	1,247,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	24,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	330,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	22,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.2	2,212,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.59	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.65	2.7	2.6	2.65	8,880,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	6,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	6,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28	28	27.5	27.5	87,400
San Miguel Pure Foods A	60	60	60	60	100
RFM Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	60	57.5	59.5	41,698,000
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	71.5	71	71	25,991,200
Universal Robina Corp.	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.1	308,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.31	1,920,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	70,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	1,092,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.35	3,009,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	1,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	20,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	85,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	60,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	25,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	16.5	17.75	16.5	17.5	186,700
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.12	0.105	0.12	1,310,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	3,350,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.14	730,000
Crown Equities, Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	3,400,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.14	0.145	0.14	0.145	800,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.28	2.34	2.28	2.3	5,420,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.036	0.036	0.035	0.035	5,400,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	40,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	15,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28	28	27	27	166,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	3,000,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	200,000
Ionics Inc.	2	2	1.96	1.96	280,000
J G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.94	1.98	1.94	1.98	44,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	202,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.3	1.42	1.3	1.42	18,687,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.56	0.56	97,740,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	40,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.3	0.34	0.3	0.34	290,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	60,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.17	0.165	0.165	4,150,000
Weller Industries Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	18,610,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.78	1.8	482,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0625	0.065	0.0625	0.0625	1,200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.69	0.72	0.69	0.71	15,800,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.58	0.38	0.58	1,390,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.56	0.57	0.56	0.56	190,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	610,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	23.5	23.5	23.25	23.25	174,700
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	4,000
Far Eastern University	450	450	450	450	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.8	6,130,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	460,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.44	0.47	0.44	0.47	16,650,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.145	0.15	1,700,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.41	0.36	0.41	123,340,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.18	1.2	7,431,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	500,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.225	750,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.48	0.45	0.46	700,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.08	2.12	2.08	2.1	147,000
SM Development Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	93,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.8	1,502,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	65,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	890,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,870,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.016	133,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	95,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.007	0.006	0.007	251,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.029	0.03	0.029	0.03	800,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	4,100,000
Interport Res.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	46,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	22,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	7,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	70,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	65,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.035	0.037	0.035	0.036	8,400,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000

DISCLOSURES

RAMON Rivera Jr., first vice president of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), disposed 1,000 PLDT shares at P1,400 on Oct. 1.

* * *

PLDT announced the appointment of Rene Banez as chief governance officer effective Oct. 5.

* * *

ZAYBER Protacio, general counsel of the Philippine Stock Exchange, tendered his resignation effective Oct. 4.

* * *

TEAM Oil Ltd. of England and **Cape Energy Pty. Ltd.** of Western Australia, and members of the **SC14** consortium have signed a farmin agreement, covering the Galoc area to be developed by the farminees at their own cost in exchange for an 80-percent equity.

* * *

ASIATRUST Development Bank Inc. appointed Edwin Yan as vice president, chief legal counsel and corporate secretary; Prima David as officer-in-charge of the controllership group; and Elmer Villegas as corporate information officer.

* * *

ASIATRUST will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 19 in the Bahia Room, Sky Top, Hotel Intercontinental Manila in Makati City at 2 p.m.

Compiled by D.J. Yap, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

October 6, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.811557	1.000000	56.2660
Japan	Yen	0.007302	0.008997	0.5062
United Kingdom	Pound	1.446518	1.782400	100.2885
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104089	0.128258	7.2166
Switzerland	Franc	0.643480	0.792896	44.6131
Canada	Dollar	0.643581	0.793021	44.6201
Singapore	Dollar	0.481407	0.593190	33.3764
Australia	Dollar	0.586258	0.722387	40.6458
Bahrain	Dinar	2.152727	2.652590	149.2506
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.216415	0.266667	15.0043
Brunei	Dollar	0.479984	0.591436	33.2777
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000089	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019598	0.024149	1.3588
UAE	Dirham	0.220964	0.272272	15.3197
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.232200	69.3310
Argentina	Peso	0.273805	0.337382	18.9831
Brazil	Real	0.287991	0.354862	19.9667
Denmark	Kroner	0.134397	0.165604	9.3179
India	Rupee	0.017715	0.021829	1.2282
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213573	0.263105	14.8072
Mexico	New Peso	0.071937	0.088641	4.9875
New Zealand	Dollar	0.545621	0.672314	37.8284
Norway	Kroner	0.120888	0.148958	8.3813
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013695	0.016875	0.9495
South Africa	Rand	0.124520	0.153433	8.6331
Korea	Won	0.000707	0.000871	0.0490
Sweden	Kroner	0.110575	0.136251	7.6663
Syria	Pound	0.015697	0.019342	1.0883
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023936	0.029494	1.6595
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000424	0.000522	0.0294

SMC to put up new alcohol distillery in Misamis Oriental

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN Miguel Corp. (SMC) is setting aside at least P1 billion to build a new alcohol distillery in Misamis Oriental.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the country's largest food and beverage firm said it was also expanding its existing distillery in Negros Occidental following the growing local and foreign demand for its liquor products.

The Misamis Oriental distillery, to be built on a 100-hectare property that SMC will lease from the Phividec Industrial Estate, is expected to produce up to 75,000 liters of hard liquor a day.

Production from the distillery will largely support the export operations of SMC's hard liquor subsidiary, Ginebra San Miguel Inc. (GSMI).

GSMI had said its net profit expanded 8 percent to P103 million in August buoyed by the growth in its sales volumes.

GSMI recorded a net profit of P95 million during the same month last year. With its August performance, total income from January to August grew 5.4 percent to P1.19 billion from P1.13 billion in the same period last year.

SMC is expanding its existing alcohol distillery, run by GSMI subsidiary Distileria Bago Inc., in Negros Occidental, mainly to meet growing domestic demand.

These initiatives are part of SMC's expansion and modernization plan. SMC is spending about P15 billion over the next three years to build new manufacturing plants and raise capacities of existing facilities as it anticipates significant growth in the local economy that, in turn, will trigger higher consumption.

The bulk of this capital outlay is going to SMC's domestic operations.

"We are definitely bullish about the domestic economy, and these investments that we are making, specifically in our local operations, reflect that confidence," SMC chair and chief executive officer Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. said.

"San Miguel is expanding its capacities and rolling out new products because we believe in the economy. Skepticism has no room in San Miguel," Cojuangco added.

"We'd rather do our part in stimulating growth than worrying about the economic problems facing the country or just doing nothing at all."

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DEMAND ON THE RISE

Oil firm at record $51, awaits US fuel stock data

SINGAPORE—Oil prices held firm around $51 a barrel on Wednesday, hovering near record highs amid the sluggish recovery in US Gulf oil production and an anticipated decline in key winter fuel stocks, dealers said.

US light, sweet crude oil futures were unchanged at $51.09 a barrel, having reached a new peak of $51.29 on Tuesday, the highest level recorded in the contract's 21-year history.

Prices first crossed the $50 mark 10 days ago.

European benchmark Brent was down three cents at $47.10 a barrel, having hit a record $47.41 a day ago.

Oil has surged more than 50 percent this year, driven by the strongest demand growth in a generation and a thin cushion of spare output capacity to deal with any unexpected supply outages.

Violence and sabotage in Iraq has been a constant source of worry for the world's stretched supply chain, with last week's threat to fellow Opec member Nigeria's supplies adding to the anxiety, traders say.

The focus of concern now is the United States where the lingering impact of Hurricane Ivan has left about 453,000 barrels per day (bpd) of production—over a quarter of total Gulf of Mexico output—shut in since mid-September.

Knife edge

With major oil exporters pumping at near capacity, there is little leeway for any significant or lasting supply disruptions, and the slow pace of output recovery in the Gulf has stoked fears of a potential wintertime supply crunch.

"(Yesterday's move) was about the effects of Hurricane Ivan. It's an indication of how much the market is sitting on a knife edge," Daniel Hynes, industry analyst at ANZ Bank in Melbourne said.

The impact on US domestic production has now surpassed the cumulative effects of storms in 2002, the last time the weather seriously affected oil and gas operations in the Gulf, the US Minerals Management Service said on Tuesday.

The outage comes just as the world's leading energy consumer should be building up supplies for the northern winter, when consumption of heating oil peaks in the northeast of the country.

Inventories of winter fuels are already running some 3.5 percent below last year and are expected to have fallen again last week, according to a Reuters poll of 10 analysts.

A particularly cold winter would further stress those supplies.

In government data to be released at 1430 GMT, the analysts expected distillate stocks, which include heating oil, to have fallen by 900,000 barrels in the previous week. Gasoline stocks were forecast to have fallen by 600,000 barrels.

Crude supplies were seen building by 2.2 million barrels in the week to Oct. 1 after good weather allowed offloading of more imports that had been delayed by Ivan.

Other major oil consumers are also holding relatively thin heating oil supplies, with No. 3 energy user Japan still running a significant deficit against last year, according to data from the country's industry group on Wednesday. *Reuters*

Japan growth to continue, BOJ exec says

SHIMONOSEKI, Japan—Bank of Japan Policy Board member Miyako Suda said on Wednesday she sees Japan's economy growing above its potential growth rate but that upward pressure on consumer prices would not be strong in the near term.

"Although the pace of growth will decline, the main scenario is for Japan's economy to continue growing above its potential growth rate," she said in a speech to regional business leaders in the western town of Shimonoseki.

But the BOJ would continue its "quantitative" easing policy of flooding the money market with excess liquidity until its conditions on prices are met, she said.

The central bank has pledged to maintain its current monetary easing framework until year-on-year changes in the core nationwide consumer price index (CPI) stabilize above zero, and that there would need to be a sustained rise in prices.

Policymakers see Japan's potential, or long-term, growth rate—the combined growth in capital stock, labor and productivity—at around 2 percent.

If the economy stays above that level, the gap between supply and demand would narrow and inflation would materialize.

But Suda said that would not necessarily happen in the current situation because of rising productivity and as personal consumption has yet to increase because wages aren't rising.

On risks for the economy going forward, Suda pointed out a bigger-than-expected decline in the US and Chinese economies, as well as a downturn in information technology demand and high oil prices.

NYMEX crude oil futures climbed above $51 a barrel on Tuesday for the first time ever.

Japan's economy grew some 7 percent in real annualized terms for the two quarters to March. Gross domestic product (GDP) for the April-June quarter was revised down to 1.3 percent.

Most members of the BOJ's Policy Board have forecast real GDP to grow by 3.0 to 3.2 percent in fiscal 2004/05.

Yoshimasa Maruyama, economist at Mizuho Research Institute, said: "It will be very difficult for the BOJ to shift policy as long as the outlook is for slower growth going into the 2005/06 fiscal year."

"The market is still divided over the price outlook report due at the end of this month. We could see some positive forecasts for CPI given recent easing in the demand-supply gap, but there are also cuts in electricity and telephone prices to consider."

In its previous report in April, the central bank said most of its board members saw core nationwide CPI at minus 0.1 to minus 0.2 percent for the year ending next March.

Data on Friday showed Japan's nationwide core CPI, which excludes volatile fresh food prices, fell 0.2 percent in August from a year earlier. *Reuters*

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PEDESTRIANS are reflected on a share prices board in downtown Tokyo, Oct. 6. Japanese share prices rose 103.55 points to close at 11,385.38 points at the Tokyo Stock Exchange, led by gains in base metal producers and ship builders despite weaker US stocks overnight as oil prices rose to record levels again. AFP

Outsourcing may stall US wage growth

NEW YORK—Concerns about slow jobs growth and barely perceptible wage increases have made outsourcing a hot-button issue in an election year, even though the number of jobs outsourced represent just a fraction of the total lost every year in the normal cycle of the labor market.

While the information technology sector has seen an increase in some of the more analytical jobs, such as systems engineers, the outsourcing trend has slowed jobs growth, Forrester Research said in a report in September.

And the impact on wages has been more pronounced.

"Wage growth has been very low" due to outsourcing, said Andrew Bartels, research analyst at Forrester about the IT sector.

The offshore alternative "is clearly constraining the ability of US workers to negotiate higher wages and dampening the need of employers to pay more."

Economists have said there is not enough concrete data to determine the full impact of outsourcing, but early signs suggest it is weighing on wages over a variety of jobs.

Offshoring's "impact is far more pervasive than the macro numbers themselves imply," Morgan Stanley chief economist Stephen Roach told Reuters in an e-mail, adding that it is playing a bigger role in shaping the wage climate.

US real average weekly earnings for nonsupervisory workers outside the farming sector in August, adjusted for inflation, grew 0.3 percent after five straight monthly declines in real wages.

During the month, the Labor Department said employers added 144,000 workers to payrolls, still short of normal jobs growth three years into an economic recovery.

Companies' ability to replace US workers with similar quality, low-wage foreign workers in manufacturing and services raises the possibility "subpar job creation and muted gains in real wages" are here to stay for the foreseeable future, Roach said in a recent note to clients.

Economic Policy Institute economist Josh Bivens said the unemployment effect of offshoring often comes first, with the impact on wages seen five to 10 years later.

But some already see signs of stagnating wages in areas of the workforce.

Employers "are just not raising them and aren't going to hire people at wages at the levels they did three years ago," said Terry Jost, vice president of consultant Capgemini America Inc.'s outsourcing practice.

Few IT and service workers are represented by unions, leaving them to fend for themselves at the negotiating table.

"If electrical engineers and IT workers have the feeling their jobs are vulnerable to offshoring, then they will surely be more reluctant to demand wage increases and jump from job to job," said Ron Hira, chairman of the IEEE-USA career and work force policy committee.

And few see the trend slowing. Offshoring is expected to grow by 30 percent to 40 percent over the next five years, translating to a loss of about 200,000 jobs a year in the services sector over the next decade, according to a recent report by McKinsey Global Institute, an independent economics think tank.

Many US companies have said outsourcing allows them to reinvest in their businesses at home, focusing on innovation and more hiring.

But that is little comfort to those unable to find new jobs with their current set of skills and education. *Reuters*

Asian shares shrug off high oil prices

SINGAPORE—Asian shares shrugged off record oil prices on Wednesday to hit five-month highs as key technology issues cheered resilience in their US peers, but worries over the impact of high energy costs on firms' profits capped gains.

Oil slipped 2 cents to $51.07, just 0.4 percent off record highs of $51.29 hit on Tuesday.

The dollar was stuck in familiar ranges ahead of US jobs data on Friday, while high crude prices pressured the yen due to Japan's almost total reliance on imported oil.

Electricity wholesaler J-Power, the world's second-biggest IPO this year, finished up 3 percent on its debut in Tokyo as the stock's perceived low risk attracted investors.

Australian shares edged up 0.06 percent to a record high, boosted by a 0.7-percent rise in News Corp. after it offered to consider moves to strengthen corporate governance amid growing shareholder concern about its relocation to the United Staes.

Japan's Nikkei stock average closed up 0.9 percent at 11,385.38, its highest level in more than two months, lifted by a 2-percent rise in Tokyo Electron Ltd., the world's second-largest maker of chip equipment.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan slipped 0.14 percent by mid-afternoon.

Stocks slipped 0.2 percent in Hong Kong but gained 0.3 percent in South Korea, which was lifted by sharp gains in chip makers. Taiwan fell 0.3 percent.

Among regional indexes, Australia and Indonesia are hovering around record highs, Singapore and the Philippines are trading around four-year peaks, while Taiwan and South Korea stand around four- and five-month highs, respectively.

South Korea's Posco, the world's fourth-largest steel maker, rose 2.8 percent, while Hong Kong shares of oil company PetroChina Co. Ltd. rose 1.2 percent.

Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd., the world's largest maker of memory chips, rose 1.3 percent, while Hynix Semiconductor Inc. jumped 7.6 percent in Seoul.

The chip maker is expected to complete the sale of a non-core chip division to a Citigroup fund by Friday.

In Japan, Fuji Photo Film Co. Ltd. rose 3.5 percent after Daiwa Institute of Research raised its rating on the company to "2" from "3," while air-conditioner maker Daikin Industries Ltd. weighed most on the Nikkei, falling 3.2 percent after an upward earnings revision disappointed investors.

Oil hovered around $51 a barrel ahead of the release later in the day of US weekly crude inventories, which will provide a timely update of the impact of Hurricane Ivan on US oil flows. *Reuters*

Beijing
Opening Soon

A CHINESE walks past a Lamborghini showroom which will open soon in Beijing on Oct. 6. Asia, long an exporter of popular mass-market cars, is becoming increasingly hungry for imports of luxury limousines, the makers of elite vehicles said at the Paris Motor Show. REUTERS

Ex-Enron exec pleads guilty to conspiracy

HOUSTON—A former assistant treasurer at toppled energy giant Enron pleaded guilty to conspiracy Tuesday for his role in making Enron's financial picture appear rosier than it really was.

Timothy DeSpain, 39, admitted lying to—or keeping pertinent financial information from—credit rating agencies so Enron could maintain an investment ranking critical to its ability to borrow money and support its volatile trading operation. He agreed to cooperate with the government in ongoing Enron investigations.

DeSpain told US District Judge Ewing Werlein he was directed by treasurers who were his bosses—Jeffrey McMahon in 1999 and early 2000 and then Ben Glisan Jr. through November 2001—not to discuss the extent of some shady financing, and he complied.

He told the judge a 1999 deal in which Enron wrongly counted a sale of treasury securities as cash flow was known to the chief accounting officer, who at that time was Richard Causey.

Glisan pleaded guilty to conspiracy a year ago and is serving a five-year sentence. Causey has pleaded innocent to more than 30 counts of fraud, conspiracy, money laundering and insider trading and is awaiting trial. McMahon has not been charged.

The government said DeSpain, the 15th person to plead guilty in the Enron investigation, was in charge of keeping Enron in touch with credit rating agencies.

In exchange for DeSpain's cooperation, he will not be charged with crimes he may have committed with Enron or his subsequent employer, Halliburton, the agreement said.

He no longer works for Halliburton, and the cooperation agreement doesn't refer to any wrongdoing there.

Company spokesperson Wendy Hall would not say when DeSpain worked at Halliburton, only that he no longer works there and his case has nothing to do with the energy services conglomerate.

DeSpain, who worked at Enron from 1998 to 2002, could receive up to five years in prison. *AP*

BSP issues rules on credit card collection

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY Board has issued a circular on credit card collection, addressing growing complaints about "unfair" practices by some credit card issuers and collectors.

In the said circular, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas ordered all banks, their subsidiaries or affiliate credit card companies and collection agents to stick to "reasonable" and "legally permissible" means to collect payments and avoid "unscrupulous" acts.

The order identified the following prohibited acts in collecting credit card receivables:

- The use or threat of violence or other criminal means to harm the physical person, reputation, or property of any person;
- The use of obscenities, insults, or profane language which amount to a criminal act or offense under applicable laws;
- Disclosure of the names of credit cardholders who allegedly refuse to pay debts, except as allowed under existing rules;
- Threat to take any action that cannot legally be taken;
- Communicating or threat to communicate to any person any credit information known to be false, including failure to communicate that a debt is being disputed;
- Any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt or to obtain information concerning a cardholder, and,
- Making contact at unreasonable/inconvenient times or hours which shall be defined as contact before 6 a.m. or after 10 p.m., unless the account is past due for more than 60 days or the cardholder has given permission or that the said times are the only reasonable or convenient opportunities for contact.

The new circular also required the issuer to fully disclose the billing details behind transactions made in foreign currencies and/or outside the Philippines, such as application of payments, currency conversion, conversion commission and other currency conversion charges.

The circular also said banks and nonbanks must disclose restructured loans, past due restructured loans and items in litigation in their respective ledgers.

Restructured loans refer to credit card receivables that have been renegotiated or modified to either lengthen or postpone the original scheduled installment payments, or substantially alter the original terms and conditions of the credit card agreement due to credit quality concerns. This account does not include receivables whose original terms and conditions are modified at the instance of the cardholder but which have not shown weakness/deterioration at the time of renegotiation.

Geothermal firm assumes new name

TIWI, Albay—After more than 30 years in the steam generation business in the country, the Philippine Geothermal Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Union Oil of California (Unocal), has changed its name to Unocal Philippines Inc. or UPI.

The change in the company name was announced by Barry Andrews, UPI president, in a formal ceremony held at the company's compound here on Oct. 1.

According to Andrews, UPI has pioneered in the commercial development of the country's geothermal resources, in partnership with the state-owned National Power Corp. (NPC).

UPI boasts of having the most highly trained and dedicated workforce in the global geothermal industry.

Andrews said that UPI and NPC had developed geothermal resources at the Tiwi field in Albay province and the Makiling-Banahaw (Mak-Ban) field in the Laguna and Batangas areas.

This led to the birth of geothermal energy in the country, he said.

For 33 years, UPI has supplied steam that provides fuel to the power plants in Tiwi, Albay and in Mak-Ban in Laguna, which are owned and operated by the NPC, Andrews said.

Both plants commenced operations in 1979. Electricity from the Tiwi and Mak-Ban facilities is supplied to the power grid of Luzon, the country's largest and most populous island, for residential, commercial and industrial uses.

Mak-Ban has an installed capacity of 426 megawatts (MW), while Tiwi's current installed capacity is 275MW.

Together, the two power plants produce about 8 percent of the electricity demand in Luzon.

According to Andrews, Unocal is a name they have been proud of. UPI is a fully integrated international energy resources company, operating in Europe and in six Asian countries.

To date, the country is the second largest steam producer in the world. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon*

Gov't urged to keep zero duty on tin plates

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL tin can makers are again apprehensive that Malacañang might issue an order to raise tariffs on tin plates while Congress is in recess.

Henry A. Tañedo, president and chair of the Tin Can Manufacturers Association of the Philippines Inc., yesterday said it would be better for the local industry as well as for consumers to maintain tariffs on tin plates at zero.

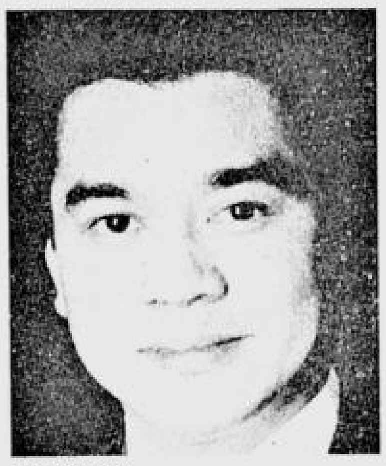
TCMAPI groups 18 companies accounting for about 70 percent of all tin plates used in the country. The bulk of the country's tin imports come from Japan and South Korea and the rest from Australia and South Africa.

Tañedo said the cost of imported tin plates had gone up by about $300 per metric ton between January and August this year.

"We are appealing to the Department of Trade and Industry to help us fight any possible tariff increase for tin plates," Tañedo said.

He said his group was always on the alert whenever Congress was in recess because this was the time when Malacañang issued executive orders.

The Tariff Commission is currently hearing a petition from Global Steelworks International Inc., the new owner of National Steel Corp., seeking protective tariff on steel products ranging from 20 percent to 30 percent from the current zero to 3 percent.


CRISTOBAL

GSII is also asking the commission to raise the import duty on tin plates to 30 percent.

In yesterday's meeting of the National Price Coordinating Council, Trade Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. said the NPCC had agreed to support TCMAPI's campaign for a status quo in the tin plate tariff.

"Tin cans account for 40 percent of the cost of producing canned goods," Cristobal said. "An increase in tariffs would mean an increase in prices of basic goods."

In a related development, GSII announced in a statement that it had started the export of steel products last month.

"A trial shipment of 5,600 metric tons of cold rolled coils worth more than $3.9 million (about P218 million) was sent to China on Sept. 4," GSII officials said.

They said the cargo was sent as "a symbol of the notable contribution that [our steel mill in Iligan City] could make to the national economy."

GSII has been "swinging into full operation and exploring export markets for steel from the Iligan mill, while various interest groups are raising questions about the sale of National Steel assets," they added.

Company president Sushant C. Das said that sending a trial shipment to the world's largest steel producer meant China could become a potential market for Philippine steel when its mill went into commercial production.

GSII is a unit of the Indian-owned Ispat Industries and it acquired the Iligan steel mill for P13.25 billion. It recently completed a P1-billion down payment.

French firms participating in Agrilink Fair

EIGHT French companies are set to take a Philippine fair by storm this month.

According to Yves Cadilhon, economic and commercial counselor of the French Embassy's Economic Department in Manila, the French firms would actively participate in the Agrilink/Foodlink Fair 2004 to be held at the at the World Trade Center in Pasay City on Oct. 14-16.

The French companies hope to "present their products to Filipino industry professionals and demonstrate their *savoir-faire* in transfer of technology and their better quality products," Cadilhon said.

France is the top producer of agricultural products in Europe, Cadilhon added. The French companies draw their strength from a strong agricultural tradition, developing the necessary expertise in the field.

Among France's primary produce are wines, dairy products, meat (beef, pork, sheep, poultry) and animal feeds.

The French firms that will participate in the Agrilink/Foodlink Fair include Bayle S.A., which manufactures poultry slaughtering equipment; France Hybrides which is involved in pig breeding; Le Cellier-Fiee Des Lois, which produces wines from Bordeau, Bourgogne, Vallee De Rhone and Loire Valley; and Pal Industries which manufactures feeds and water systems for poultry and swine.

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Chefs on Parade
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- *Consists of 26 Live & Display Competitions*
- *More than 500, professional & student chefs as competitors*
- *Some 1,000 kitchen assistants, artists & service personnel as participants*
- *More than 200 competition entries to be judged*
- *50 Professional & HRM School Teams*
- *Various Booths: Food Street, F & B Books & Magazines Kitchen & Dining Show, Culinary School Mart*

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS
- Dollar Rent-A-Car
- Gomeco Metal Corporation
- Noritake Porcelana Mfg., Inc.
- Philippine Convention & Visitors Corporation (PCVC)
- San Miguel Corporation
- SGV & Co.
- Silver Swan Mfg. Co., Inc.

PATRONS
- Alfredo's Steaks
- Cafe Adriatico
- Center for Culinary Arts
- Century Park Hotel
- Hyatt Regency Manila
- International School for Culinary Arts & Hotel Management (ISCAHM)
- LJC Restaurant Group
- Lyceum of the Philippines
- Mandarin Oriental Manila
- Manila Pavilion Hotel
- Marco Polo Restaurant
- Max's Bakeshop, Inc.
- Restaurant 9501
- St. Scholastica's College
- Tamayo's Catering Services
- The Manila Hotel
- The Pan Pacific Manila
- The Peninsula Manila
- The Westin Philippine Plaza

INSTITUTIONAL ENDORSERS
- Asean Hotel & Restaurant Association
- Asean Tourism Association
- Chaine des Rotisseurs
- Les Toques Blanches

COMPETITION TITTLES

DAY 1
- Pralines Freestyle
- Creative Cakes
- Pastry Showpiece
- Cake Decoration
- Table Setting/Menu Folder (Stu)
- Market Basket Classical (Stu)
- Fruit Flambe
- New Asia Cuisine
- Ice Carving Individual

DAY 2
- Plated Dessert Freestyle
- Filipino Dessert Freestyle (Pro)
- Market Basket Filipino
- Table Setting / Menu Card or Folder
- Bartending & Flairtending (Stu)
- On the Spot Pasta Cooking
- Culinary Trivia (Stu)

DAY 3
- A1 Cold Seafood Buffet Platter
- A2 Cold Meat Buffet Platter
- A3 Plated Appetizer
- A4 Set menu
- A5 Hot Dish
- 7100 Island Cooking
- S2 Plated Filipino Dessert
- B1 Market Basket Classical (Pro)
- E2 Cocktail Mixing (Pro)
- D3 Ice Carving Team

EXHIBITORS

WINE CORRIDOR
- Anthony's Wine Cellar Inc.
- Bestworld Beverage Brands, Inc.
- Future Trade International, Inc.
- Premiere Wines & Spirits
- Tanduay Distillers, Inc.

BOOKS & MAGAZINES
- ABS-CBN Publishing Inc.
- Anvil Publishing
- Cook Culinary Magazine
- F & B World Magazine
- Flavors Magazine

FOOD STREET
- Alfredo's Steaks
- Baguio Country Club
- Blue Bacon & Green Eggs
- Cafe Adriatico
- Century Park Hotel
- Cravings
- Hotel & Tourism Institute of the Philippines (HTIP)
- LJC Restaurant Group
- Max's Bakeshop, Inc.
- Philippine Women's University
- Silver Swan Manufacturing Company, Inc.
- Tamayo's Catering Services
- Via Mare Catering Services

KITCHEN & DINING
- CITIMEX, Inc.
- Meyer Luxury Cookware
- Mida Food Distributors, Inc.
- Ocean Glassware
- San Miguel Corporation
- Werdenberg International Corp.

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COP 2004 PARTICIPANTS

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION
- Century Park Hotel
- Chef Ed's
- Edsa Shangri-La Hotel
- Holiday Inn Resort
- Hyatt Regency Manila
- Ilustrado Restaurant
- Le Souffle Restaurant
- LJC Restaurant Group
- Lolo Dad's Restaurant
- Makati Shangri-La Hotel
- Manila Pavilion Hotel
- Nuvo Restaurant
- Tamayo's Catering Services
- The Manila Hotel
- The Pan Pacific Manila
- The Peninsula Manila
- The Westin Philippine Plaza

STUDENT DIVISION
- Arellano University
- Center for Culinary Arts
- College of the Holy Spirit
- Cristo Rey Institute
- De La Salle Dasmarinas
- Dominican College
- Emilio Aguinaldo College
- Holy Angel University
- Hotel & Tourism Institute of the Philippines
- La Consolacion College – Caloocan
- La Consolacion College – Manila
- Lyceum of the Batangas
- Lyceum of the Philippines
- Manuel Enverga University
- National Teachers College
- Olivarez College
- Philippine Women's University
- Polytechnic University of the Philippines
- Siena College
- Southeast Asian College
- St. Anne College
- St. Louis College
- St. Michael College
- St. Paul College QC
- St. Scholastica's College
- St. Therese – MTC Colleges
- University of Mindanao
- University of Regina Carmeli
- University of the Philippines

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COMMISSION ON AUDIT

Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND/OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

FISCAL YEAR 2003

(in thousand pesos)

	BALANCE SHEET			STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES									
				INCOME				EXPENSES					
Corporation	Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Employers & Employees Contributions/ Subsidy from Govt.	Investment Income	Operating & Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	PS	MOOE	Provision for Income Tax	Net Income (Loss)	Dividends / Remittances to Govt.
Financial A													
Al-Amanah Islamic Investment Bank of the Philippines	99,163	445,788	(346,625)	-	-	10,521	10,521	82,058	25,178	56,880	-	(71,538)	-
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	1,358,313,421	1,155,982,972	202,330,449	-	-	53,791,037	53,791,037	46,280,110	3,503,463	42,776,647	914,302	6,596,625	306,254
CB - Board of Liquidators	32,232,252	413,168,007	(380,935,755)	3,000 [1]	-	1,854	4,854	7,907,650	1,376	7,906,274		(7,902,796)	-
Development Bank of the Philippines	148,754,525	129,513,628	19,240,897	-		13,549,227	13,549,227	11,560,055	2,329,753	9,230,302	40,340	1,948,832	1,001,143
DBP Data Center, Inc.,	52,585	28,387	24,199	-		48,065	48,065	43,230	33,777	9,453	1,476	3,360	-
DBP Management Corporation	29,664	2,287	27,377	-	1,306	2,583	3,889	783	732	51	574	2,532	-
Industrial Guarantee Loan Fund	6,109,626	1,545,304	4,564,322	-	155,693	120,575	276,268	66,058	2,360	63,698	41,329	168,881	-
Land Bank of the Philippines	267,880,217	245,808,247	22,071,970	-	-	18,529,611	18,529,611	16,375,274	4,016,598	12,358,676	153,154	2,001,183	300,000
Land Bank Countryside Development Foundation Inc.	68,700	1,049	67,651	-	5,993	772	6,765	6,139	1,663	4,476	-	625	-
Land Bank Realty Devt. Corporation	309,264	79,363	229,901	-	8,702	163,629	172,331	127,522	7,857	119,666	9,957	34,852	-
LBP Insurance Brokerage, Inc.	442,680	103,712	338,968	-	29,075	64,396	93,471	27,354	12,408	14,945	11,791	54,327	-
LBP Leasing Corporation	1,008,631	472,602	536,029	-	10,819	75,057	85,876	31,043	13,572	17,471	11,420	43,413	-
Masaganang Sakahan, Inc.	85,469	25,400	60,070	-	690	19,653	20,343	13,616	6,546	7,070	1,932	4,795	-
People's Credit Finance Corporation	2,875,367	1,727,765	1,147,602	-	30,836	234,655	265,491	196,447	43,010	153,437	15,883	53,162	-
TOTAL FINANCIAL A	1,818,261,565	1,948,904,511	(130,642,946)	3,000	243,114	86,611,635	86,857,749	82,717,338	9,998,293	72,719,045	1,202,157	2,938,253	1,607,397
Financial B													
Employees' Compensation Commission	133,933	15,223	118,710	-	-	60,090	60,090	54,325	23,030	31,295	-	5,764	-
Government Service Insurance System	299,628,491	36,376,248	263,252,243	39,129,362	18,879,992	18,031,731 [2]	76,041,085	38,313,630	3,645,857	34,667,772	-	37,727,456	-
GSIS Family Bank	3,011,868	2,375,111	636,757	-	-	161,044	161,044	174,897	52,652	122,245	-	(13,853)	-
GSIS Mutual Fund, Inc.	1,002,111	24,848	977,264	-	-	78,571	78,571	174,989	7,195	167,794	743	(97,161)	-
Meat Packing Corp. of the Philippines	873,669	79,739	793,930	-	-	1,770	1,770	8,369	60	8,309	-	(6,599)	-
Home Development Mutual Fund	148,443,416	33,522,338	114,921,078	-	4,967,024	6,540,762	11,507,786	5,893,404	1,005,565	4,887,839	351,636	5,262,746	-
Home Guaranty Corporation	22,262,127	15,062,805	7,199,322	-	70,624	312,313	382,937	906,165	126,749	779,416	19,198	(542,426)	-
National Development Company	12,236,338	11,242,453	993,886	-	240,722	835,139	1,075,861	1,357,506	144,648	1,212,859	113,688	(395,333)	-
Batangas Land Company, Inc.	41,596	1,239	40,357	-	-	8,076	8,076	6,975	120	6,855	531	569	-
First Cavite Industrial Estate, Inc.	11,186	2,076	9,110	-	-	1,277	1,277	2,463	1,624	839	-	(1,185)	-
First Centennial Clark Corporation	1,181,111	1,453,380	(272,270)	-	-	6,809	6,809	388,771	6,265	382,507	-	(381,962)	-
GY Real Estate, Inc.	9,979	90	9,888	-	-	369	369	127	71	56	64	178	-
Inter Island Gas Service, Inc.	17,412	73,319	(55,907)	-	-	379	379	400	73	327	-	(21)	-
Kamayan Realty Corporation	6,601	74	6,528	-	-	695	695	796	126	670	-	(100)	-
Luzon Integrated Services Inc.	4,871	14,099	(9,228)	-	-	96	96	94	-	94	-	3	-
Manila Gas Corporation	110,601	19,340	91,261	-	-	5,336	5,336	7,676	2,001	5,675	-	(2,340)	-
Nat'l. Precision Cutting Tools, Inc.	23,763	121,397	(97,633)	-	830	-	830	52	-	52	-	779	-
Nat'l. Slipways Corporation	2,607	3,087	(480)	-	-	112	112	47	-	47	-	65	-
Nat'l. Stevedoring and Lighterage Corporation	12,592	26,840	(14,248)	-	-	1,449	1,449	1,223	533	690	-	226	-
Nat'l Trucking and Forwarding Corporation	7,576	40,995	(33,418)	-	-	808	808	4,115	812	3,303	-	(3,307)	-
Philippine National Lines	85,968	6,300	79,667	-	-	3,606	3,606	174	96	78	-	3,432	-
Pinagkaisa Realty Corporation	2,586	158	2,428	-	-	515	515	450	99	351	-	65	-
Tacoma Bay Shipping Company, Inc.	6,934	480	6,454	-	-	478	478	180	24	156	-	298	-
Nat'l. Home Mortgage Finance Corporation	43,001,426	50,113,275	(7,111,849)	720,000	-	2,153,942	2,873,942	4,379,069	221,730	4,157,339	-	(1,505,127)	-
Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation	1,048,594	385,998	662,596	-	23,222	95,597	118,819	195,407	75,325	120,082	-	(76,588)	-
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation	125,780,365	87,058,831	38,721,534	-	3,293,595	5,484,002	8,777,597	8,476,869	600,280	7,876,588	-	300,729	1,150,000
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation	44,744,676	685,787	44,058,889	12,748,144	3,713,278	9,836	16,471,258	12,450,447	450,924	11,999,523	-	4,020,811	-
PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority	4,454,617	4,024,228	430,389	117,603	13,928	95,624	227,155	89,739	47,461	42,278	2,418	134,998	-
Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation	2,596,297	534,430	2,061,868	-	-	149,748	149,748	107,275	40,554	66,721	-	42,474	-
Social Security System	170,848,789	2,737,967	168,110,822	39,420,418	12,763,053	0	52,183,471	55,102,928	3,088,960	52,013,968	-	(2,919,456)	-
Trade and Investment Devt. Corporation	1,385,766	166,428	1,219,338	-	62,287	184,333	246,620	159,935	96,928	63,007	10,424	76,262	-
TOTAL FINANCIAL B	882,977,865	246,168,580	636,809,285	92,135,527	44,028,555	34,224,508	170,388,590	128,258,495	9,639,763	118,618,731	498,701	41,631,396	1,150,000
Public Utilities													
Light Rail Transit Authority	38,670,001	40,287,348	(1,617,347)	7,618,660	-	775,949	8,394,609	3,046,533	243,470	2,803,063	-	5,348,076	-
Local Water Utilities Administration	12,919,773	9,064,981	3,854,792	-	23	1,425,028	1,425,051	2,449,017	438,146	2,010,870	-	(1,023,966)	-
Metropolitan Waterworks & Sewerage System	65,125,348	27,026,243	38,099,105	-	-	3,567,693	3,567,693	2,468,030	129,846	2,338,184	-	1,099,663	-
National Electrification Administration	19,894,648	21,790,716	(1,896,068)	424,550	-	315,085	739,635	6,738,017	326,151	6,411,866	-	(5,998,382)	-
National Power Corporation	989,999,157	1,317,193,339	(327,194,182)	-	-	125,501,615	125,501,615	242,516,440	3,697,747	238,818,693 [3]	-	(117,014,825)	-
Philippine National Oil Company	61,772,982	28,327,624	33,445,358	-	-	1,076,554	1,076,554	436,716	48,120	388,596	105,930	533,908	1,275,136
PNOC Coal Corporation	367,213	262,636	104,577	-	-	26	26	27,981	-	27,981	-	(27,955)	-
PNOC Devt. & Management Corporation	162,945	86,677	76,268	-	-	24,277	24,277	45,695	28,021	17,675	-	(21,419)	-
PNOC Energy Devt. Corporation	92,344,576	74,670,563	17,674,013	-	-	8,350,835	8,350,835	6,968,896	407,906	6,560,990	1,234,280	147,659	-
PNOC Exploration Corporation	16,126,376	15,220,044	906,333	-	-	1,759,449	1,759,449	1,434,263	14,813	1,419,449	197,350	127,836	-
PNOC Malampaya Production Corporation	2,116	1,491	625	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PNOC Petrochemical Devt. Corporation	3,119,195	248,519	2,870,676	-	-	47,801	47,801	179,752	102,612	77,141	5	(131,956)	-
PNOC Shipping & Transport Corporation	575,178	275,880	299,298	-	6,078	331,336	337,414	319,536	51,360	268,176	1,289	16,589	2,485
Philippine National Railways	11,921,826	18,527,053	(6,605,228)	213,914		183,755	397,669	1,041,697	342,899	698,798	-	(644,028)	-
Philippine Postal Corporation	7,256,172	3,948,374	3,307,797	52,255	37,373	3,450,031	3,539,659	3,799,719	2,620,964	1,178,755	-	(260,060)	-
Philippine Postal Savings Bank, Inc.	2,556,826	2,287,913	268,914	-	73,211	198,365	271,576	212,978	58,716	154,261	20,809	37,790	-
Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation	51,778,598	53,289,120	(1,510,522)	-	-	19,106	19,106	1,409,570	37,025	1,372,545	-	(1,390,464)	-
TOTAL PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,374,592,929	1,612,508,520	(237,915,592)	8,309,379	116,685	147,026,904	155,452,968	273,094,840	8,547,798	264,547,042	1,559,664	(119,201,535)	1,277,621

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off

[1] *CB-BOL - financial assistance from BSP*

[2] *GSIS - includes insurance premium of P6,156.5 million*

[3] *NPC - The bulk of expenses consist of*

Generation	*P79,275 million*
Amortization of capacity fees	*23,032 million*
Loss on forex fluctuations	*77,840 million*
Interest expense	*24,852 million*
Total	*P204,999 million*

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND/OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

FISCAL YEAR 2003

(in thousand pesos)

Corporation	BALANCE SHEET			STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES									Dividends / Remittances to Govt.
				INCOME				EXPENSES					
	Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Employers & Employees Contributions/ Subsidy from Govt.	Investment Income	Operating & Other Income	Total Income	Total Expenses	PS	MOOE	Provision for Income Tax	Net Income (Loss)	
Industrial and Area Development and Regulatory													
Bases Conversion Development Authority	81,696,886	8,826,004	72,870,882	-	119,299	288,728	408,027	820,247	103,761	716,485	6,808	(419,028)	-
Bataan Technology Park, Inc.[2]	459,581	359,581	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BCDA Management Holdings, Inc.	451,279	150,399	300,881	-	13,373	1,821	15,194	13,642	6,346	7,297	36	1,515	-
Clark Development Corporation	3,589,177	879,825	2,709,353	-	194,414	408,654	603,068	588,188	242,465	345,723	9,949	4,931	-
John Hay Management Corporation	187,421	45,843	141,577	-	737	6,507	7,244	48,057	23,279	24,778	-	(40,813)	-
North Luzon Railway Corporation[2]	1,707,364	1,544,002	163,362	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-
Philippine Centennial Expo '98 Corporation	439,058	31,125	407,934	-		30	30	435	406	29	-	(405)	-
Poro Point Management Corporation	157,234	62,754	94,480	29,553	80	149	29,781	33,502	13,600	19,903	-	(3,722)	-
Cagayan Economic Zone Authority	648,381	4,694	643,687	40,000		8,802	48,802	41,543	11,784	29,760	-	7,259	-
Cebu Ports Authority	4,908,655	575,549	4,333,106	-		425,797	425,797	367,107	64,629	302,478	30,679	28,012	32,722
Garments and Textiles Export Board	1,103,429	139,197	964,233	-	45,508	208,672	254,180	152,302	57,910	94,393	-	101,877	-
Laguna Lake Development Authority	277,702	46,038	231,664	-	14,171	107,694	121,865	101,462	40,838	60,624	3,810	16,594	-
Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority	2,441,928	192,725	2,249,203	-	8,880	574,466	583,346	394,386	172,527	221,859	56,816	132,144	68,265
Manila International Airport Authority	28,421,328	12,409,476	16,011,853	-	159,366	4,806,081	4,965,447 [1]	3,830,476	655,184	3,175,292	178,499	956,472	609,901
National Housing Authority	21,267,220	6,779,857	14,487,362	550,860	274	723,670	1,274,804	719,559	452,737	266,823	-	555,245	9,422
Partido Development Administration	2,134,107	992,584	1,141,523	15,000	2,358	190	17,548	14,089	3,751	10,338	-	3,459	-
Philippine Aerospace Development Corporation	210,004	70,821	139,182	-	-	81,695	81,695	85,795	11,769	74,025	-	(4,099)	-
Philippine Economic Zone Authority	4,700,698	3,533,243	1,167,455	-	39,025	4,377,359	4,416,384	3,791,583	230,235	3,561,347	170,708	454,093	218,912
Philippine Ports Authority	76,566,800	10,341,001	66,225,799	-	259,164	5,142,361	5,401,525	4,556,210	800,678	3,755,532	-	845,315	947,910
Public Estates Authority	25,325,385	12,704,991	12,620,395	-	12,009	168,060	180,069	138,705	59,021	79,684	3,462	37,902	-
PEA Tollway Corporation	93,066	90,816	2,250	-		407,147	407,147	108,476	66,018	42,458	-	298,671	-
Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority	30,001,868	7,305,362	22,696,506	-	11,787	2,149,759	2,161,546	1,991,689	324,933	1,666,756	-	169,857	-
Sugar Regulatory Administration	872,166	433,653	438,513	45,000	-	217,873	262,873	291,950	208,274	83,677	-	(29,078)	-
Philippine Sugar Corporation	3,697,983	4,504,051	(806,067)	-	255,519	27,352	282,871	120,690	5,890	114,800	-	162,181	-
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority	502,120	14,056	488,064	30,000		8,909	38,909	56,233	24,467	31,766	-	(17,324)	-
TOTAL INDUSTRIAL AND AREA DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATORY	291,860,842	72,037,646	219,823,196	710,413	1,135,963	20,141,775	21,988,149	18,266,325	3,580,502	14,685,823	460,766	3,261,058	1,887,132
Agricultural, Trading and Promotional													
Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions	386,347	47,714	338,632	93,000	-	77,047	170,047	164,001	31,799	132,203	-	6,046	-
Cottage Industry Technology Center	80,413	7,878	72,535	11,700	-	8,059	19,759	23,262	9,790	13,472	-	(3,502)	-
Food Terminal, Inc.	3,527,453	1,601,512	1,925,940	-		394,729	394,729	367,603	156,357	211,246	8,306	18,820	-
Human Settlements Development Corporation	919,992	159,649	760,343	-	384	50,104	50,488	44,851	7,188	37,664	-	5,637	-
National Agri-Business Corporation	27,107	1,028,614	(1,001,507)	-	-	2,159	2,159	2,362	1,431	931	-	(203)	-
Philippine Genetics, Inc.	157,994	1,046,265	(888,271)	-	-	1,263	1,263	11,090	2,452	8,638	-	(9,827)	-
ZNAC Rubber Estate Corporation	7,171	8,405	(1,235)	-	-	9,601	9,601	9,375	1,212	8,163	71	155	-
Livelihood Corp./KKKProcessing Ctr. Authority	432,243	193,290	238,953	-	4,284	23,992	28,277	63,644	23,825	39,819	-	(35,367)	-
Marawi Resort Hotel, Incorporated	43,318	3,122	40,196	-	-	12,873	12,873	9,933	3,174	6,759	-	2,940	-
National Dairy Authority	499,569	432,740	66,830	52,200		5,564	57,764	64,881	43,456	21,425	-	(7,117)	-
National Food Authority	23,387,962	39,481,588	(16,093,626)	922,100	8	15,565,067	16,487,175	23,150,395	1,420,560	21,729,835	-	(6,663,220)	-
National Irrigation Administration	44,830,568	23,951,227	20,879,341	-	-	1,558,036	1,558,036	1,981,087	1,210,469	770,617	-	(423,051)	-
NIA Consult, Inc.	31,573	14,709	16,864	-	-	19,309	19,309	18,517	5,165	13,352	207	585	-
National Tobacco Administration	354,641	135,736	218,905	100,018	1,368	31,799	133,185	325,275	163,719	161,556	-	(192,090)	-
Natural Resources Development Corporation	389,684	119,047	270,636	7,958	-	12,543	20,501	33,903	11,922	21,981	-	(13,402)	-
Bukidnon Forests, Inc.	265,403	5,555	259,848	-	-	42,558	42,558	40,435	4,644	35,792	-	2,123	-
Philippine Coconut Authority	1,923,324	1,435,547	487,777	205,630	3,376	211,556	420,562	422,900	291,496	131,405	-	(2,338)	-
Philippine Commission on the Promotion and Development of Sports SCUBA Diving	2,044	29	2,015	730	-	195	925	843	-	843	-	83	-
Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation	49,928	19,774	30,154	64,800	13	7,063	71,876	76,646	34,603	42,043	-	(4,770)	-
Philippine Fisheries Development Authority	656,010	772,506	(116,496)	12,310	12,248	406,649	431,207	406,656	188,959	217,697	-	24,551	-
Philippine International Trading Corporation	369,949	155,116	214,833	-		354,551	354,551	370,199	44,178	326,021	-	(15,649)	-
Philippine Rice Research Institute	935,503	245,923	689,580	362,768	-	33,934	396,702	460,211	88,102	372,110	-	(63,509)	-
Philippine Tourism Authority	6,878,338	783,156	6,095,182	-	24,821	790,946	815,767	729,451	285,702	443,749	-	86,317	-
Corregidor Foundation, Incorporated	134,925	4,048	130,878	11,007	-	21,851	32,858	38,380	7,486	30,895	-	(5,523)	-
Quedan & Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation	6,098,863	5,232,168	866,695	-	14,247	494,905	509,151	469,312	213,560	255,752	-	39,839	-
TOTAL AGRICULTURAL, TRADING AND PROMOTIONAL	92,390,318	76,885,317	15,505,001	1,844,221	60,749	20,136,354	22,041,324	29,285,213	4,251,248	25,033,966	8,583	(7,252,473)	-
Social, Cultural and Scientific													
Cultural Center of the Philippines	1,467,582	105,772	1,361,811	146,700	5,088	84,143	235,931	290,723	79,180	211,543	-	(54,792)	-
Development Academy of the Philippines	170,145	119,493	50,652	31,809	-	144,585	176,394	185,124	112,188	72,936	-	(8,730)	-
Lung Center of the Philippines	4,600,744	421,339	4,179,406	195,163	3,573	125,145	323,880	264,173	137,281	126,893	-	59,707	-
National Kidney and Transplant Institute	1,157,017	336,640	820,377	185,811	-	548,161	733,972	711,836	223,419	488,417	-	22,136	-
Nayong Pilipino Foundation, Inc.	7,636,381	4,461	7,631,920	-	2,451	15,858	18,309	15,480	4,272	11,208	-	2,829	-
Occupational Safety and Health Center	175,011	5,828	169,183	50,353	-	6,517	56,870	64,305	28,590	35,715	-	(7,435)	
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration	4,202,289	132,087	4,070,201	-	163,614	1,008,326	1,171,940	607,275	258,795	348,480	-	564,665	-
People's Television Network, Inc.	1,214,350	388,259	826,091	26,500	12	166,678	193,190	219,406	134,869	84,537	-	(26,216)	-
Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation	4,362,560	3,512,270	850,289	-	-	18,545,332	18,545,332	10,198,627	4,532,551	5,666,076 [3]	-	8,346,706 [4]	7,871,202
Philippine Center for Economic Development	95,677	54	95,623	-	6,902	1,088	7,990	6,741	912	5,829	-	1,250	1,228
Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office	4,773,669	4,347,714	425,955	-	12,758	1,427,537	1,440,295	1,376,865	449,256	927,610	-	63,430	-
Philippine Children's Medical Center	420,454	107,877	312,577	211,000	-	161,527	372,527	369,367	223,644	145,723	-	3,160	-
Philippine Heart Center	1,024,348	267,704	756,644	161,725	-	1,056,013	1,217,737	1,199,691	381,164	818,527	-	18,046	-
Phillipine Institute for Development Studies	361,248	15,244	346,003	15,000	27,128	4,560	46,688	46,114	27,255	18,858	-	574	-
Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care	154,477	5,786	148,690	52,345	497	7,392	60,234	39,339	26,052	13,287	-	20,894	-
Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority	255,296	20,905	234,390	-	5,094	123,738	128,832	61,571	17,043	44,528	17,837	49,424	19,970
Technology and Livelihood Resource Center	2,895,471	1,722,222	1,173,249	-	21,074	94,671	115,744	606,210	84,672	521,537	-	(490,465)	-
TOTAL SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC	34,966,719	11,513,657	23,453,062	1,076,405	248,191	23,521,270	24,845,866	16,262,847	6,721,144	9,541,703	17,837	8,565,183	7,892,399
GRAND TOTAL	4,495,050,237	3,968,018,230	527,032,006	104,078,945	45,833,257	331,662,446	481,574,645	547,885,057	42,738,747	505,146,310	3,747,709	(70,058,119)	13,814,549

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off

[1] *MIAA - Includes P609.9 million share of National Government*

[2] *BTPI and NLRC - Schedule of Pre-operating expenses submitted*

[3] *PAGCOR - Includes P720.6 million for capital expenditures*

[4] *PAGCOR - Includes P475.5 million for remittance to Social Fund and P7,871.2 million share of National Government*

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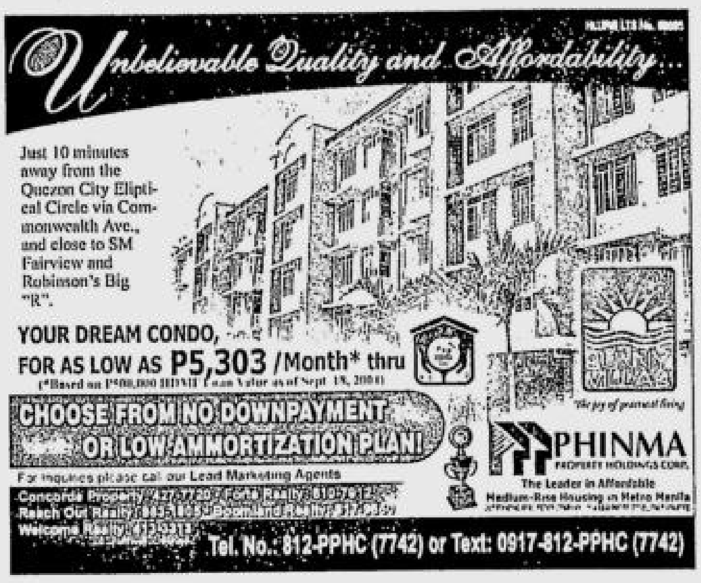

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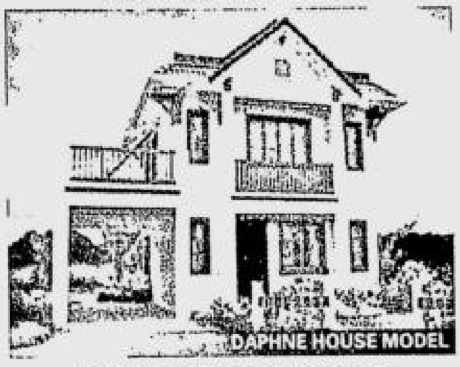

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1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

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CAR LOAN

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

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2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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CAP/ PRUD PLANS 09177939632

CAP/TPG/PRUD Educ2528373

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

PLAY - 12 Angry Men University of Asia & the Pacific Ortigas Oct. 5, 8, 9, 7:30PM Telengtan Hall. 0917-5337997 Ian

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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF ONE-YEAR WASTE OIL GENERATION FOR EMB-DENR ACCREDITED WASTE TREATERS ONLY

"AS-IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING: October 26, 2004, 2:00 p.m. Solarium Hall, Building-1, NPC Head Office Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

This public bidding is for the sale of one-year waste oil generation from the following:

NPC SPUG PLANT AND LOCATION	ITEM DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID PRICE (per Liter)
SCHEDULE-1 CATANDUANES-MASBATE AREA 1. MARINAWA DPP 2. BALONGBONG HEP 3. VIGA DPP 4. CAGRARAY DPP 5. BATAN DPP 6. RAPU-RAPU DPP 7. MASBATE DPP 8. TICAO DPP 9. PB-105 10. PB-110	WASTE FUEL OIL	P 1.280
	WASTE LUBE OIL	P 0.630
SCHEDULE-2 MARINDUQUE-QUEZON-NO. LUZON AREA 1. BOAC DPP 2. PATNANUNGAN DPP 3. JOMALIG DPP 4. POLILIO DPP 5. TORRIJOS DPP 6. BASCO DPP 7. KABUGAO DPP 8. CASIGURAN DPP 9. SABTANG DPP 10. CALAYAN DPP 11. PALANAN DPP 12. ITBAYAT DPP 13. LUBUAGAN DPP 14. POWER BARGE - 120	WASTE FUEL OIL	P 1.310
	WASTE LUBE OIL	P 0.570
SCHEDULE-3 PALAWAN AREA 1. EL NIDO DPP 2. TAYTAY DPP 3. SAN VICENTE DPP 4. CULION DPP 5. LINAPACAN DPP 6. ARACELI DPP 7. BALABAC DPP 8. CAGAYANCILLO DPP 9. CUYO DPP 10. ROXAS DPP 11. BUSUANGA DPP 12. NARRA DPP 13. PUERTO PRINCESSA DPP 14. AGUTAYA DPP 15. BROOKE'S POINT DPP 16. POWER BARGE-106	WASTE FUEL OIL	P 1.280
	WASTE LUBE OIL	P 0.630
SCHEDULE-4 MINDORO-ROMBLON AREA 1. PULANG LUPA DPP 2. CALAPAN DPP 3. LUBANG DPP 4. MAMBURAO DPP 5. TINGLOY DPP 6. SAN JOSE DPP 7. CORCUERA DPP 8. CONCEPCION DPP 9. BANTON DPP 10. ROMBLON DPP 11. TABLAS DPP 12. SIBUYAN DPP 13. POWER BARGE-109 14. POWER BARGE-114	WASTE FUEL OIL	P 1.310
	WASTE LUBE OIL	P 0.580
SCHEDULE-5 EASTERN-VISAYAS AREA 1. CAMOTES DPP 2. TAGAPUL-AN DPP 3. MARIPIPI DPP 4. LIMASAWA DPP 5. ZUMARAGA DPP 6. ALMAGRO DPP 7. PILAR DPP 8. BIRI DPP 9. CAPUL DPP 10. DARAM DPP 11. SAN ANTONIO 12. SAN VICENTE 13. STO. NIÑO DPP	WASTE FUEL OIL	P 1.310
	WASTE LUBE OIL	P 0.580
SCHEDULE-6 WESTERN VISAYAS AREA 1. BANTAYAN DPP 2. SIQUIJOR DPP 3. CALUYA DPP 4. DOONG DPP 5. GIGANTES DPP 6. GUINTARCAN DPP 7. POWER BARGE-113 8. POWER BARGE-116	WASTE FUEL OIL	P 1.310
	WASTE LUBE OIL	P 0.650
SCHEDULE-7 EASTERN MINDANAO AREA 1. DINAGAT DPP 2. KALAMANSIG DPP 3. HIKDOP DPP 4. LORETO DPP 5. N. AQUINO DPP 6. JA SANTOS DPP 7. TALICUD DPP 8. BALUT DPP 9. POWER BARGE-111	WASTE FUEL OIL	P 1.280
	WASTE LUBE OIL	P 0.630
SCHEDULE-8 WESTERN MINDANAO AREA 1. JOLO DPP 2. BASILAN DPP 3. SIASI DPP 4. SIBUTU DPP 5. BALIMBING DPP 6. SITANGKAY DPP 7. TANDUBAS DPP 8. CAG. DE TAWI-TAWI DPP 9. MANUK-MANGKAW DPP 10. TAWI-TAWI DPP 11. SOUTH UBIAN DPP 12. TAPUL DPP 13. WEST SIMUNUL DPP 14. TONGKIL DPP 15. MAPUN DPP 16. MARUNGAS DPP 17. P.B.-108 18. P.B.-119	WASTE FUEL OIL	P 1.280
	WASTE LUBE OIL	P 0.630

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S/ CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO PhP 60,000.00.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN 2003 ORIGINAL (OR CERTIFIED XEROX COPY) FOR THE BIDDER OR AN AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT (ORIGINAL) OF THE COMPANY
3. VALID ACCREDITATION FROM EMB-DENR FOR TREATMENT/STORAGE/ DISPOSAL (TSD) FACILITY AND FOR THE WASTE TRANSPORTER, INCLUDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PERMIT TO TRANSPORT, WASTE MANIFEST FORM AND CERTIFICATE OF TREATMENT ALL ACKNOWLEDGED BY EMB-DENR.

Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding must present the original accreditations from EMB-DENR and may secure the official bid forms at P1,000.00/ set from Mr. Samuel V. Lomuntad, Jr. at Ground Floor, Building-1, NPC Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone no. 924-5384. Deadline for issuance of bid forms is 4:30 p.m., **October 25, 2004**. Attendance to the Pre-Bid Conference on **October 25, 2004** at 2:00 p.m. is mandatory for all bidders.

For the Materials Management Department

(Sgd.) **FELIX B. TACATA, JR.**
OIC, MMD

(PDI - Oct. 6, 7 & 8, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO ADOPT A TAX RECOVERY ADJUSTMENT CHARGE IN THE RATE OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC CASE NO. 2004-238

LEYTE II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LEYECO II)

Applicants

x- -x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by applicants herein, the electric cooperatives from Region VIII on August 2, 2004 of an omnibus application for authority to adopt a tax recovery adjustment charge in their rates, with prayer for provisional authority, docketed as ERC Case No. 2004-238.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on October 29, 2004 at ten o'clock (10:00 a.m.) in the morning and two o'clock (2:00 p.m.) in the afternoon at Leyte II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO II), Real Street, Sagkahan District, Tacloban City, Leyte.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/ or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR., Chairman, and the Honorables OLIVER B. BUTALID and JESUS N. ALCORDO, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 6th day of September, 2004 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.**
Executive Director III

(PDI-Oct. 7 & 14, 2004)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

KAAKBAY
Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan
CITIZENS' DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES, Inc.

The **Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan Citizens' Development Initiatives, Inc. (KAAKBAY CDI)** invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit proposals for the supply and delivery of various Department of Education accredited textbooks and reference materials for elementary and secondary levels to be distributed to beneficiary students and libraries in 5,000 to 10,000 public schools nationwide under the **Kaakbay sa Pag-aaral Rural Education Standardization Project** with an earmarked funding of US$ 20 Million.

For interested parties, Prequalification Terms of Reference may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of US$ 2,000.00 from October 7 to 15, 2004 at the following address:

KAAKBAY CDI
Kaakbay sa Pag-aaral Project Office
Ground Floor, Strata Building, Lopez Rizal Street
Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City. Tel. No. +632 5327501

KAAKBAY CDI reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals or bids, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defect or informality therein, and accept the offers most advantageous to the KAAKBAY CDI without offering any reason whatsoever. KAAKBAY CDI assumes no obligation or responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify any party for any expense or loss that they may be incurred as a result of their participation in the process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the bidding procedures and other aspects of the process at any time, including the schedule and the venue to be provided, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements or changes.

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Telefax : (02) 434-3195	Email : cmaleq@yahoo.com
Cellphone 0919-2104200	Cellphone : 0919-4312107

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NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon, Operation & Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. TRANSCO 2004-010D

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon O&M Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items listed below:

DATE OF BIDDING: OCTOBER 29, 2004; 1:30 PM

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET
A1	1 SET	THERMAL SCANNER, INFRARED	3PSMDS-04-039	P 4,000,000.00
A2	2 SETS	SF6 GAS ANALYZER	3SL-04-127	P 7,000,000.00
A3	1 SET	ULTRAVIOLET CORONA IMAGER	3ASA-04-190	P 8,000,000.00

NOTE: A Pre-Bidding Conference for Schedules A1-A3 will be held on October 15, 2004; 1:30 PM at the OAVP Conference Room.

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 per schedule starting **October 08, 2004.** No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the Conference Room (OAVP), Transco-SL O&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until the specified date and time of bidding above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. The procurement rules and regulations used in this transaction shall be in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of "R.A. 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to at least 1% of the approved budget in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Certified Check, Bank Draft, or 1.5% of the approved budget in the form of Bank Guarantee, or 2.5% of the approved budget in the form of Surety Bond, penal and callable on demand issued by GSIS or a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

The Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of such action.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net and at the TRANSCO Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **G.R. LISTANO**
Chairman-BAC
SL O & M

(PDI – October 7, 2004)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
PANAY DIESEL POWER PLANT
Dingle, Iloilo City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) NPC, PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirement/s:

Date/Time & Place of Bidding	November 9, 2004, 9.00 AM NPC, PDPP, Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo
PR. No./Inquiry No.	PB 104-2004-346
Specification	PR#PB104-2004-346 METAL CONDITIONER, ANTI-FRICTION Packaging 20 liters/pail **Specifications:** 1. Color – ASTM D-1500 Less than 1.0 2. Viscosity at 40 deg. C ASTM D-445 150 cSt or better Viscosity at 100 deg. C ASTM D-445 12 cSt or higher 3 Flash Point ASTM D-445 Not under 200 deg. C 4. Pour point ASTM D-97 13 deg. C or better 5. Specific Gravity at 15 deg C ASTM D-70 1.180 6. Solubility in water Negligible 7. Auto ignition Temp. ASTM E-659 Above 230 deg C 8 Percent solids Not measurable 9 Desired Features are provided in the Purchase Requisition
Approved Budget	PB104-2004-346 – P950,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	October 14, 2004, 2.00 PM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo.
Submission of First & Second Envelope: Opening / Evaluation of first Envelope (Technical Documents)	October 28, 2004, 9.00 AM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo.
Opening of Second Envelope (Financial Documents)	November 9, 2004, 9.00 AM at PDPP Conference Room, Dingle, Iloilo.

A Two Envelope Mode of Procurement shall be observed.

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Mr. Rolando T. Bulfa – BAC Chairman/Manager Admin/Finance PDPP, Dingle, Iloilo with telefax number 351-0450 upon presentation of this publication and payment of non-refundable fee of Php1,000.00 starting September 30, 2004 to October 20, 2004, from 10.00 AM to 12.00 NN and from 1.00 PM to 4.30 PM.

Bid proposals and other tender documents shall be opened in the presence of the prospective bidders.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with IRR of R.A. 9184. Pass/Fail evaluation shall be observed.

A Bidders Bond equivalent to 1% is required in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check; bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit, 1.5% Bank Guarantee, 2.5% Surety GSIS surety bond.

A Performance Bond equivalent to 30% of the total contract amount, penal and callable on demand issued by the GSIS.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) **NELSON J. HOMENA**
Plant Manager, PDPP

(PDI-Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2004)

Municipality of Murcia
Province of Negros Occidental
Republic of the Philippines

September 27, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Murcia, Negros Occidental invites interested and legitimate contractors to apply for eligibility and submit sealed bids for the

CONSTRUCTION OF MURCIA PUBLIC MARKET
(2-storey Main Bldg., Dry Market and Wet Market Bldgs.)
Poblacion, Murcia, Negros Occidental

1. The approved budget cost (ABC) for the contract to be bid is Php 33,500,000.00.
2. Application for Eligibility is open to Contractors with PCAB license and registration for CATEGORY – Large A and above for buildings.
3. The scope of work for the project includes the supply of materials, labor, tools and equipment.
4. Eligibility forms/documents are available for issuance starting October 18, 2004 at the Municipal Treasurer's Office upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 200.00.
5. Deadline for submission and receipts of eligibility documents and LOI (Letter of Intent) is on October 25, 2004 at the BAC Office, Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m.
6. Eligibility checks and opening of application for Eligibility is on October 26, 2004, Municipal Hall at 9:00 a.m.
7. Bidding documents shall be issued to eligible bidder(s) upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00 starting November 4, 2004.
8. Pre-bid conference is set on November 11, 2004, Murcia Municipal Hall, 10:00 a.m.
9. Deadline for submission of bidding documents to BAC and opening of Bids is on November 22, 2004 at the Municipal Hall, 10.00 a.m.
10. All applicable provision under the IRR of RA 9184 shall govern all stages of the bidding procedures.

LGU-Murcia reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the LGU.

(Sgd.) **INOCENTES S. CONTE**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 30 & Oct. 7, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PD Ref No.: PB040209-EL0024(PB2)/PB040309-EL0042(PB2)/ PB040429-EL0059(PB2)

The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARD COMMITTEE FOR CORPORATE TRANSCO**, wishes to invite interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid on the items below:

Item Description	PR No.	Approved Budget
Supply and Delivery of Various Information and Communication Technology Equipment	Various PR's	P9,723,776.00

1. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting **September 30, 2004 to October 24, 2004,** at The BAC Secretariat Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set.
2. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before **10:00 a.m. of October 25, 2004** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the new deadline for submission shall be announced through a Bid Bulletin. Submission of documents must be clear, legible and readable. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
3. Pre-bid conference will be held on **October 14, 2004 at 11:00 a.m.** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
4. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184.
5. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
6. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI - Oct. 1 & 7, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines

Upgrading of Existing Science Laboratories for the Public Elementary and High Schools in the Province of Pampanga:

Procurement of Lot 1: Science Laboratory Equipment, Lot 2: IT Equipment and software, Lot 3: Office Equipment and Lot 4: Reference Materials

1. The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through the CY 2002 DOST-GIA AIII, 1b and CY 2002 DOST-GIA AIII, 1b intends to apply the sum of Php 2,510,000.00 for Lot 1: Science Laboratory Equipment, Php 4,394,100.00 for Lot 2: IT Equipment and Software, Php 241,800.00 for Lot 3: Office Equipment and Php 2,626,600.00 for Lot 4: Reference Materials being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Upgrading of Existing Science Laboratories for the Public Elementary and High Schools in the Province of Pampanga: Lot 1/Lot 2/Lot 3. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. DOST now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Lot 1: Science Laboratory Equipment (alcohol lamps, prisms, test tubes, lenses tube racks, beakers, iron stands, funnels, scales, weights, mortar & pestles, microscopes and balances). Lot 2: IT Equipment and Software (computers, server, memory stick, CD writer video packages and interactive working packs). Lot 3. Office Equipment (photocopier, digital camera, handycam and tape recorders) and Lot 4: Reference Materials (Hardbound science/technology/inventions and encyclopedia). Delivery of the GOODS is required within 30 calendar days upon receipt of the Notice to Proceed (NTP). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from DOST and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on October 12-13, 2004
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below from 8.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m. on October 12-13, 2004, upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. DOST will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 15, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the following address: DOST Executive Lounge, DOST Compound, Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m. on October 27, 2004. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on October 27, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. on October 27, 2004 at the following address: DOST Executive Lounge, DOST Compound, Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila.
9. All eligible bidders are required to bid for all items in their respective/s otherwise, their bids shall be automatically rejected.
10. DOST reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Atty. Jocelyn G. Alvarado, Chairperson, DOST-BAC
Rm. 207, DOST Main Building, Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila / 02-8373161
arnie@dost.gov.ph / 02-8373161 TF / www.dost.gov.ph

(PDI – Oct. 1 & 7, 2004

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
AGRARIAN REFORM COMMUNITIES PROJECT
OFFICE of the BAC CHAIRMAN
Sabung ARC, Municipality of Tuao, Cagayan
Tel. No. 078-826-2114
Contact Person : ______________

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of Tuao, Cagayan as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, invites contractors classified and registered with the Philippine Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB) for similar contracts as Medium B to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project : CONCRETING/REHABILITATION OF CULUNG-BAN JUAN FMR
Approved Budget for Contract : Php 17,605,169.62 (DC+CP+tax)
Estimated Duration : 150 calendar days
Scope of Work : Structure Excavation, Embankment, Aggregate Base Course, Aggregate Sub base Course, PCCP, 610mm RCPC, Stone Masonry, Box Culvert

Minimum Required Equipment:

No. of Units	Description	Capacity
2	Motorized Grader	110-130 HP
2	Vibratory Road Roller	10 tons at least
1	Water Truck with sprayer	1,500 gal. Capacity
3	1-Bag. Conc. Mixer	8 cu.m./day
3	Concrete Vibrator (rod)	
1	Bar Cutter	
1	Stake Truck	
2	Pay Loader	275 HP
12	Ten Wheeler Dump Trucks	10 cu.m./load

Deadline for the submission of Letter of Intent and Eligibility Requirements	Oct. 28, 2004
Issuance of Bidding Documents	Oct. 21 – Nov. 22, 2004
Pre-Bid Conference	Nov. 24, 2004 at 10:00 AM
Submission & Opening of Bids	Dec. 7, 2004 at 10:00 AM

3. Prospective bidders should secure and fill up the Information Sheets from the BAC Secretariat Eligibility requirements, in sealed envelopes, properly bound, with all contents numbered consecutively and signed by the prospective bidder or his duly authorized representative must be submitted to The BAC Chairman, Municipal Town Hall, Tuao, Cagayan.
4. Unless otherwise indicated in the instruction to bidders or other bidding and contract documents all particulars relative to the procurement and contract implementation shall be governed by RA 9184 and its IRRA-A.
5. Bid documents will be issued to eligible bidders at Office of the Bids and Awards Committee Municipal Town Hall, Tuao, Cagayan upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00.
6. The implementing agency reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any minor defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **NIDO M. AGLAUA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Oct. 7 & 14, 2004)

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
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Memorial Park
Mortuary
Viewing Chapels
Crematory
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Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

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Plaridel, BULACAN - Liloan, CEBU - Ma-a, DAVAO
(632) 815 1875 or 90 ; (632) 893 8374 to 77

Speaker Jose de Venecia, Jr.
and the
Members of the House of Representatives

mourn the passing away of a former colleague

HONORABLE FRANCISCO "Komong" SUMULONG, SR.

Member, 1991 Constitutional Convention
Member, 4th Congress (1958-1961)
Assemblyman, Batasang Pambansa (1984-1986)
Majority Leader, 8th Congress (1987-1992)

on Tuesday, October 5, 2004 at the age of 85.

His remains will be brought to the Plenary Hall, House of Representatives, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, for a Requiem Mass and Necrological Services at 1:00 p.m. today, Thursday, October 7, 2004.

After the Requiem Mass and Necrological Services at the House of Representatives, his remains will be brought to Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, for cremation.

Interment will be held on Friday, 8 October 2004, at the Parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Tak Tak Road, Antipolo City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Antipolo Cathedral.

We request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The LORD JESUS CHRIST said, "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die..."
John 11:25-26

The Management and Staff of
TEOPE COMMERCIAL
condole with the Family of its
President

DALMACIO CHENG

a.k.a. BENITO LIM

who went home to be with
our LORD JESUS CHRIST
on October 4, 2004
at the age of 72.

His beloved wife **ROSALINA TEOPE**; children **Peter** and **Amenne Tiope**, **Patrick** and **Maybelle Tiope**, **Pollyanna** and **Gilbert Chua**; grandchildren **Paul John Tiope**, **Patricia Maegan Tiope**, **Paul Christian Gerald Chua**, and **Gillian Pearl Chua**, thank and praise the LORD GOD for granting him salvation, everlasting life, and abundant life (John 3:16, John 10:10) here on earth, a rich and fruitful life among us, and now he is with the LORD as the LORD promised (2 Cor. 5:8). We would like all our relatives, friends, and the reader to trust your life fully to the LORD JESUS CHRIST, claiming the above Bible promises, and obtain everlasting life with all its abundance for now and all eternity.

His earthly remains is at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. On the morning of October 9, Saturday, his remains will be taken to St. Stephen's Parish ProCathedral, 1267 G. Masangkay Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila for the solemn funeral service at 8:30 a.m.

The interment follows at the Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

"I glorified you on earth by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do."
John 17:14

Our dearest DADDY

MARIANO M. TUASON

lovingly called **"Nito"**
to family and friends

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on 05 October 2004 at the age of 79.

His bereaved wife **Ma. Luisa Leaño**; children **Mitzi**, **Mike**, **Manny** and **Morris**; son-in-law **Boy Tronqued**; daughters-in-law **Monette Borja**; **Amy Inocentes** and **Maricar Lozano**; his sister **Glory**, grandchildren, relatives and friends request readers to join them in praying for Nito's eternal peace.

His remains lie in state at Christ The King, Greenmeadows.
Daily Masses at 7:00 p.m.

Cremation at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, 09 October 2004
at Loyola Crematory Services, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment at Christ The King, Greenmeadows crypt
right after cremation.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

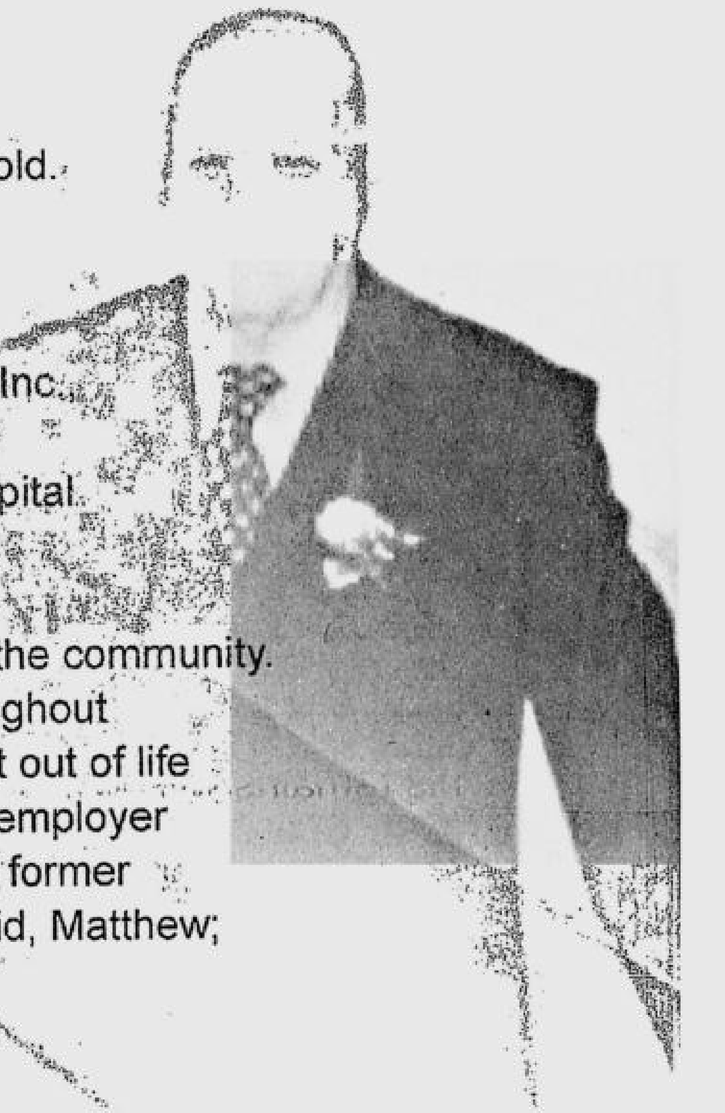
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

- Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life ...

JOHN 5:28-29

DENNIS RAY THIEKE SR.



Dennis Ray Thieke Sr., died of a heart attack at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone on September 30, 2004. He was 68 years old. A native of Karnak, Illinois, USA, Papa John served 22 years in the U.S. Army including tours of duty in Korea and Vietnam. He was the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Health Visions Corporation with subsidiary including Total Life Care Medical Center, Inc., Subic Bay Medical Center Inc., Philippine International Hospital, St. John the Baptist of Marikina Hospital, Riverfront International Hospital, HVC General Services, HVC Security Services Inc., JIT Industries and the newly established HVC Motors Corporation. He leaves behind a legacy and commitment of quality health care to the community. Design and construction of comprehensive health care facilities throughout the Philippines were truly his passion. His desire to achieve the most out of life gave hope to many. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, employer and friend who will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife, the former Janice Inocente of Castillejos, Zambales; sons: Dennis, Johnny, David, Matthew; daughters: Marie, Masumi, Joanne.

Last memorial services will be held on October 9, 2004 at the Subic Bay Medical Center Chapel, to be followed with his cremation to be conducted on October 10, 2004, 9:00 am at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Chapel, Quezon City.

Military honors will be provided by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11447.

My father was a man that never turned his head from a person in need, he was always there to help, no matter what. Countless number of individuals had always admired, loved and respected his generosity and how straight-forward he lived his life, I myself have always looked up to him not only as a father but as a close friend and mentor. The times in my life I felt alone, he was always there, reminds me of a fitting quote I read for the first time the night my father passed away...

"My son, my precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then I carried you."

I love you dad and you will always be in my heart, mind and soul until the day we see each other again.

Dennis Ray Thieke Jr.

"Only your best is good enough
for your mission."
- General Atienza

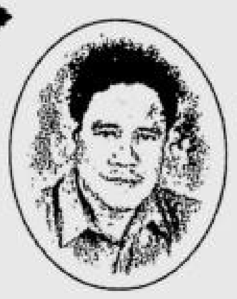
In Loving Memory
On the 38th Death Anniversary of
GENERAL RIGOBERTO J. ATIENZA

Former Chief of Staff
Armed Forces of the Philippines
who died on October 8, 1966

His children Zenaida and David Clymer, Eloisa and Victor Lim, Herminia Atienza-Ilano, Rosalinda and Balbino Hernando, Rolando Atienza, and Josefina Atienza-Salvaña, grandchildren and great-grandchildren invite relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers and to join them tomorrow, Friday, October 8, 2004 in the offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Camp. Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza, Libis, Quezon City at 3:00 p.m., after which the annual Gen. Rigoberto J. Atienza Memorial Awards Ceremonies will be held. Holy Mass will also be offered at graveside at the Libingan ng mga Bayani; Fort Bonifacio, Makati City at 8:00 a.m. and at military chapels throughout the country.

We invite you to.also remember his wife **EUGENIA SUAREZ ATIENZA** who died on June 22, 1995.

"Nothing... in the world will ever be able to separate us from the love of God."
Romans 8:39



God has called home

GELACIO "BOY" IGNACIO YASON

of Taguig City and Roxas, Oriental Mindoro

December 23, 1946 - October 4, 2004

A true Christian, devoted husband, loving Tatay and Lolo,
dedicated public servant and loyal friend.

He lived a life of service, simplicity and humility.

His loving wife **HEDY**, his children **MARY ANNE** and **RANDY**, **RINA**, **PAOLO** and **JOHN**, his sisters **BETTY**, **LYDIA**, **SUSAN** and **EMMA**, his brother **RAMON** (†), his in-laws **RUDY**, **ROGER**, **GENIE**, **ART** and **LEVI**, his grandchildren **TRISH** and **JAMTON**, his other relatives and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 10, 2004, Sunday at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." **John 14:6**

ROLANDO APOLO ANICETO

Has joined his wife "Fe" and peacefully rest in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord on 4th October 2004 at the age of 74.

His loving children **Ronald**, **Eileen**, **Rowena**, and **Roehl**, their spouses **Jesusa Christine**, **Gus** and **Amorelle**; his loving grandchildren **Rafael Carlos**, **Geoffrey**, **Saundra Faye**, **Kyra Nicole**, **Keith Joshua**, **Fionna Alkyana**, and **Fiorella Kelsey** will have infinitely loving memories, hopes of salvation in his final days, and his journey to our Father in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, 9th October 2004 at 4 p.m. at the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. A special mass will be held at 2 p.m.

DEATH NOTICES

ZARNE G. DUPRA

Passed away on October 5, 2004
at the age of 32.

His remains lie in state at their residence in San Isidro, Zaragosa, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 9, 2004, 9:00 a.m. at Zaragosa Cemetery, Zaragosa Nueva Ecija.

TEODORA MAGLALANG vda. de TETANGCO

(May 1, 1927 - October 4, 2004)

Her remains lie in state at family residence in San Juan, Apalit, Pampanga.

She will be laid to her final resting place at the Apalit Catholic Cemetery on Saturday, 9 October 2004 after the 3:00 p.m. Mass at the St. Peter the Apostle Parish Church.

ANTONIO CUYOS RUEDAS

Peacefully joined his Creator
on October 5, 2004 at the age of 73.

His loving wife **Colita**; children and in-laws **Reca** and **Earl**, **Reyno** and **Susan**, **Reda** and **Alvin**, **Radie** and **Maribel**, **Rodel** and **Shirley**, **Reza**, **Rowen**, and **Ramir** and **Jinky**; brothers, sisters, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Patag, Catbalogan, Samar.

Necrological services will be held at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, October 12, 2004 at the St. Bartholomew Parish Church in Catbalogan, Samar.

Interment will be at 2:00 PM on the same day at the Sta. Margarita Public Cemetery after a short service at the St. James the Greater Parish Church in Sta. Margarita, Samar.

MANUEL CUESTA SEVIDAL

(June 18, 1930 – October 4, 2004)

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 74.

His bereaved wife Sally; children Maris, Susan, and Marlon request readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 9, 2004, 9:00 a.m. at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Bo. Sauyo, Novaliches.

Whoever finds his life
will lose it, and whoever loses his
life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE OF THANKS

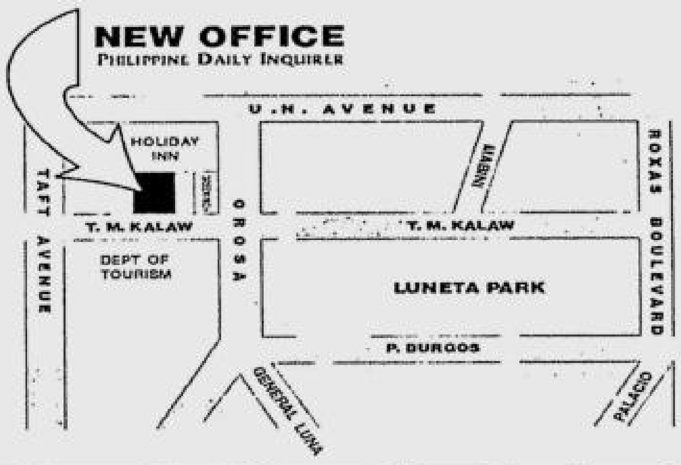
DEATH ANNIVERSARY

REQUIEMS

FREE OBIT DESIGN

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

NEW OFFICE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



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CITY OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA
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• 817-5017 • 817-5018 • 817-5014 • 813-1441/46
FAX (632) 815-2662 • 815-2660 • 817-3127 • ZIP CODE 1226

INVITATION TO BID

The **PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY (PEA)** is inviting interested parties to participate in the public bidding for the sale or lease of eleven (11) lots on a serviced land basis, located at the Central Business Park 1 A, Bay City (formerly known as Boulevard 2000), Pasay City, for mixed use or commercial development purposes.

1. Properties for sale or lease:

BLK		LOT	AREA[1] (M^2)	MODE
A1	1	corner	3,843	SALE
A2	1	corner	3,462	SALE
A2	2	interior	2,568	SALE
A2	3	interior	2,611	SALE
A2	4	interior	2,573	SALE
A2	5	corner	3,321	SALE
A3	1	corner	2,500	SALE
A3	2	interior	2,222	SALE
B4		portion	5,825	SALE OR LEASE
B7		portion	4,648	SALE OR LEASE
B5		portion	18,348	SALE OR LEASE

[1] Subject to final survey

2. Qualified bidders:

   Sale : Any Filipino citizen, of legal age; any government owned or controlled corporations and any government financial institution or any public corporation, which have complied with the requirements established by PEA for this bidding.

   Lease : Any Filipino citizen, of legal age; any partnership, association or corporation, public or private of which at least 60% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is organized and constituted under the laws of the Philippines.

3. Interested qualified parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) in cash or Manager's/ Cashier's Check starting 28 September to 27 October, 2004 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Marketing Department, 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati MM.
4. The first pre-bid conference is scheduled on 21 October 2004 at 10:00 AM at the PEA Conference Room.
5. Required pre-qualification documents and duly accomplished Bid Documents prescribed in the Terms of Reference shall be submitted to the PEA Real Estates Bids and Awards Committee (PREBAC) on 4 November 2004 on or before 10:00 AM. Public opening of bids shall follow at 10:30 AM of the same day.
6. For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department in the above address at telephone numbers 817-4711 to 13 (trunk line) and 813-7103 to 7104 (direct lines).

(Sgd.) TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD
General Manager/CEO

(PDI – Sept. 27 & Oct. 2, 7, 13, 18 & 25, 2004)

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NATIONAL SALES RALLY

The great gathering of Sales Champions

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RENE ESPINOSA

October 26, 2004, Tuesday 9:00 - 5:00 pm
Holiday Inn Galleria Manila

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A "MUST-ATTEND" event
for your Sales People/Managers

Seminar Investment

P2,895.00 + Vat before October 15 (Early Bird)
P3,495.00 + Vat October 15 onwards (Regular Rate)
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Globe Kababayan brings Share-A-Load To Hong Kong

NOW you can ask relatives and friends based in Hong Kong to send you prepaid load credits via Globe's award-winning Share-A-Load.

With the recent introduction of Globe Share-A-Load in Hong Kong, Filipino OFWs living and working there can expect to hear more of the familiar refrain 'pa Share-A-Load naman diyan' from their relatives here who are on Globe or Touch Mobile.

Share-A-Load is a service made possible through a joint partnership between Globe Kababayan and one of Hong Kong's biggest telco provider, SmarTone. In order for Globe Prepaid and Touch Mobile subscribers to receive Share-A-Load prepaid credits from Hong Kong, their relatives there must first be a member of Barkadahan sa SmarTone, a club exclusively for Filipino subscribers of SmarTone.

By being a Barkadahan sa SmarTone club member, your relatives can now use their SmarTone handsets to send you Share-A-Load in either P150, P300 or P500 denominations. And for easy conversion, the corresponding load denominations will be paid by the Barkadahan sa SmarTone members in their Hong Kong dollar equivalent.

Share-A-Load from Hong Kong is a part of Globe Kababayan's ongoing campaign to provide Filipinos from different OFW destinations with innovative overseas mobile services specifically tailor-made to their needs. And it comes closely on the heels of the highly successful release of the same service in Japan.

According to Globe's head of overseas mobile services Alan C. Supnet, "Filipinos in Hong Kong need not send their relatives here load credits through the traditional load methods of cash remittance, nor do they need to purchase a call and text card, scratch and send the PIN via text. Now they can just Share-A-Load with them."

Now that Globe Share-A-Load is finally in Hong Kong, the worn out refrain of not having enough load is no longer a valid reason for not staying in touch.

CMP, PMSEA, PNRC MOA SIGNING
The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (CMP), the Philippine Mines Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA), and, the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) recently signed a memorandum of agreement, for cooperation in the provision of exchange of expertise on disaster prevention, preparedness, rescue and relief management. Shown are (seated from left): Ernesto Rodriguez, PMSEA president; Richard Gordon, PNRC chair/CEO; Philip Romualdez, CMP president and PMSEA director. With them are (standing, from left): Gwendolyn Pang, PNRC director for fund generation; Teresita Usapdin, PNRC director for communications; Theresa Javier, BenguetCorp division manager; Michael Cabalda, PMSEA director; Cecilia Francisco, PNRC OIC for operations.

DOT endorses 'Sweet Deals and Pure Indulgence' tour package

"SWEET Deals," a travel package to known local Philippine destinations started by Wow Select Consortium two years ago offers more exciting perks for 2004. It offers the following basic package: roundtrip airfare or via Superferry with transfers, two nights, three days accommodation with room upgrade subject to availability, and daily breakfast. Available during the months of August to December, the group of twelve tour operators from all over the Philippines is led by Travel Edge with Skoal Advertising Inc as event organizer, together with some of the best resorts in the country, added a pure indulgence package of a health and wellness program, sports/adventure and cultural heritage to the basic sweet deals package.

"This is the first travel package where Metro Manila tour operators teamed up with provincial tour operators to give travelers the best experience the destination and resort can offer at promo prices," according to Kelly Boncan, former Philippine Tour Operators Association (Philtoa) president who heads Travel Edge. "The package also offers point to point destinations not just starting from Manila but also from one province to another," she added.

Over 30 leading resorts and hotels found in Boracay, Palawan, Puerto Princesa, Manila, Puerto Galera, Camiguin, Davao, Batangas, Subic, Baguio City, Dumaguete, Bacolod, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Bohol joined the program to showcase the best of the Philippines.

The 13 participating tour operators are Travel Edge, Action Holidays, Cencorp Travel, Nexus Travel, Swire Travel Phils., Thomas Cook Phils., Southeast Travel, Filipiana (Bacolod City), Orientwind (Dumaguete), Tourmakers Philippines (Cagayan de Oro), Travel Advantage (Davao City), Small World Travel (Baguio City) and Travel Village (Bohol).

"Sweet Deals and Pure Indulgence" is endorsed by the DOT and is presented by Globe Platinum, Petron Blaze as official gasoline sponsor with Superferry, Asian Spirit and Air Philippines as partners and Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Philippine Star, Joey 92.3 and the Mobile Media as Media Partners. For inquiries, you may call Skoal Advertising at 896-7569 or 896-1893.

STERLING CAMPUS IDOL
Students of Sta. Isabel College along Taft. Avenue, Manila had a grand time enjoying the singing and dancing skills of today's hip generation when the Sterling Campus Idol held its first live auditions there. Hosted by master DJ John Hendrix (left) of 97.1 LSFM, the event had talented students take centerstage, with Andrea Mae Gatpatan winning in the high school level and Amee Ruth Buzeta in the college level. High school and college students aged 14 to 25 years old can join. Entry forms are available at the participating schools' student councils and at the Sterling Campus Idol Secretariat (886-4407 or 886-4421).

Bits & Clips

Health and Beauty Fair

IN-A-JIFFY Corp (IAJC) exclusive distributor of the six-in-one Matstone Multi-purpose Juice Extractor will participate in Shopwise's "Health and Beauty Fair" this October. During the event, IAJC will conduct product demos on Matstone's different functions. As an added treat to its customers, Shopwise will give a 10 percent discount on the Matstone product. You can check out the product at Shopwise's Fresh Section at the following branches: Pasong Tamo on Oct. 8 to 10; Libis, QC on Oct. 15 to 17; Cubao on Oct. 22 to 24 and at Subic on Oct. 29 to 31.

Golf exhibit at SM Megatrade

EXPERIENCE the ultimate luxury and performance technology and apparel at the Adidas Golf and TaylorMade Golf zone at the 9th Phil. International Golf Show at SM Megatrade Hall 2, Mandaluyong City which runs from Oct. 8 to 10.

NMCDAP general assembly

CALLING the attention of all news dealers of Region IV-A (Calabarzon) and the neighboring provinces, you are all invited to attend the 1st General Assembly of the NMCDAP Southern Luzon Chapter headed by Col. Floro Maniego which will be held at Ding Hao Chinese Cuisine located in Calamba, Laguna on Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For particulars, contact Col. Maniego at (043)312-6728 or any of the NMCDAP officers: Mon Tapales (0917-3692539), Carlito Corro (0920-575-8093), Edward Aquino (0917-6252721), Boy Lumayno (0927-9155528), Baby Angeles (0927-8705763), Jun Gagaboan (0910-3998523).

CEU HS' 81 get together

CENTRO Escolar University High School Class of 1981 is going to have a get-together on Oct. 16. Alumni from classes 1978 to 1983 are invited to join. Contact Nica at the CEU Alumni Office at 735-9405 or Me-Ann at 741-7926 during office hours. Or contact Bogs at 0917-8202588 or Roscel at 0917-5390966.

The Coffee Beanery barista competes abroad

WENCY Dalanon, The Coffee Beanery barista who won the grand prize in the 2nd Philippine Barista Cup, will be representing the Philippines in the World Latte Art Competition to be held at Suntec Int'l Convention Center in Singapore this Oct. 10 to 12. The Coffee Beanery takes pride in raising the quality of its baristas through intensive training. Visit The Coffee Beanery at all Cravings outlets and at the 5th level of Shangri-La Plaza mall, 2nd floor SM City Marilao, Quezon Ave., Brgy. Holy Spirit in Commonwealth, Metrowalk Ortigas and Mandaue Cebu.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee – Head Office, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites BSP/G-EPS registered companies/contractors and other interested suppliers to a public bidding for:

One (1) lot – Supply and installation of twelve (12) units packaged air conditioning equipment for the Information Systems Technology Department per BSP drawings, scope of works and specifications
Spares (compressors, condenser fan motors and filter dryers)

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P3,078,520.50
Completion Period : Within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of Notice to Proceed

Bid documents are available from **07 OCTOBER 2004** to **21 OCTOBER 2004** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P1,500.00** at the following:

BAC Secretariat
Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building
cor. A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Sts., Malate, Manila
Tel. No(s). 523-6427

Bidding Date and Time : **27 OCTOBER 2004 at 10:00 A.M.**
Place : **Room MR2A, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, Malate, Manila**

Interested bidders shall submit not later than the bidding date and time the following documents in three (3) separate envelopes:

Envelope No. 1:
1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers
2. Y2003 Audited Financial Statements (Income Statement & Balance Sheet)
3. Y2003 Income Tax Return duly stamped/received by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) or its Authorized Agent Bank
4. Taxpayer's Identification Number
5. Valid and current Mayor's Permit/Municipal License
6. Prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) which shall be at least equal to the ABC, duly signed by the authorized signing official and supported with pertinent documents, i.e., financial statements and copies of on-going project contracts; or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate. The commitment or cash deposit certificate shall be in an amount not lower than 10% of the ABC. The NFCC shall be computed as follows: NFCC = [(Current assets – Current liabilities) (K)] minus value of all outstanding projects; K = 10.
7. Duly notarized statement that the prospective bidder is not blacklisted from bidding in any Government Office, Agency, Corporation
8. Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents submitted for eligibility check
9. Duly notarized certification by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original
10. Affidavit of the prospective bidder that he or she or any officer of their corporation is not related to the Head of the Procuring Entity by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree
11. Certificate of authorized dealership or distributorship from the manufacturer
12. Brochure(s) of offer

Envelope No. 2:
1. Instructions to Bidders
2. Duly accomplished Certification/Undertaking
3. Original Bid Security

Envelope No. 3:
Price Proposal with attached cost breakdown

All envelopes shall be dropped in the bid box located at Room MR2A, 5-Storey Building, BSP Main Complex. **LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

The BSP assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) MELPIN A. GONZAGA
Vice-Chairman

(PDI – October 7, 2004)

LOTUS SIGNS UP CELEBRITY ENDORSER PIA GUANIO
Lotus Ultimate Writing Instruments, the brand for quality ballpens and other writing instruments, recently signed up celebrity endorser Pia Guanio to be the brand's celebrity endorser. Activities lined up to promote this partnership between Pia and Lotus include mall tours, which bring both product and celebrity closer to the fans, television commercials, print ads and radio commercials. Shown during the contract signing held at The Palms Country Club are (seated, from left): Amspec AVP Boy Centeno; marketing manager C. Antoinette R. Severino; EVP/GM Jun S. Laqui Jr; Pia Guanio; president Rolland R. Thompson; AVP Branden B. Thompson, and talent manager June Torrejon. Standing behind are national sales manager Wency S. Cao and Lotus product manager Paul R. Oraa.

RACT SIGNING
September 2004

NISSAN MOTORS PARTNERS WITH BPI
BPI Family Savings Bank recently inked a memorandum of agreement with Nissan Motor Phils Inc for BPI Family's participation in Nissan's Anniversary Rush Promo. Present during the contract signing were Alfonso Salcedo, president of BPI Family Savings Bank and Leman C.C. Lee, president and CEO of Nissan Motors Phils.

Product FILES

Make life sweet and spicy with Vcut

SWEET? Strolling hand in hand down a tree-lined boulevard, watching the sunset and dining under the stars. Spicy? White water rafting, rock climbing and sky diving. Sweet and Spicy? New Jack n' Jill Vcut Sweet Chili. This rocking snack from JacK n' Jill is a delicious blend of sweet and spicy flavors combined with 100 percent fresh potato chips ridge-sliced and fried to a delightful crisp. Its all-natural potato taste is bound to keep munch times constantly interesting. There'll never be another dull moment with Vcut Sweet Chili around. The new mouthwatering flavor of your favorite potato snack is definitely one thing you shouldn't miss. Vcut Sweet Chili, a cool snack that's really hot!

MyReviewerOnline.com: Just a click away

YOUR child need not agonize about going to reviewer school. With thousands of primary and secondary students graduating this academic year, preparing for higher-level entrance examinations starts within the next weeks. Preparations will be tough as students try to battle for admission in the best schools of their choice.

To ensure that they get the best chance possible, parents are already encouraging their children to take refresher courses. The extra classes, however, are not always enough to ensure that the student is adequately prepared to pass the entrance exams. Aside from the limited hours, the environment is often crowded and not always conducive to learning.

"Which is why the idea of a web-based learning portal crossed my mind," relates Dennis Gamboa, general manager of eHighway I.T. Inc, a local web designer and developer. With the support of partners PLDT, Araneta Center, Cinnabon, and Philam Life Plans, thousands of questions prepared by math, science and language teachers from reputable secondary and tertiary schools were commissioned.

The style and content of most questions are culled from exit interviews of students taking entrance tests. This way, those preparing for examinations will get some basic idea of how the bigger universities or popular high schools will be phrasing questions.

Enrollment in MyReviewerOnline.com is through pre-paid cards. The values vary from P200 (for 600 minutes or 10 hours), and P500 (for 1,800 minutes or 30 hours) of actual time usage. Interested pre-paid card distributors may call 817-9092 or 812-0250 for details.

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Pag-IBIG FUND is inviting Contractors/Suppliers to a public bidding for the supply and delivery of the following requirements:

Qty.	Particulars	Agency Budget Ceiling	Cost of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)	Schedule of Pre-Bid Conference
736 sets	Desktop Computers (CAT. 2B)	P 34,224,000.00	P 5,000.00	Oct. 18, 2004 1:30 p.m.
1 lot	Pag-IBIG Membership Identification System	P 56,000,000.00	P 10,000.00	Oct. 20, 2004 1:30 p.m.

Eligibility Requirements, Terms of Reference and Bid forms may be obtained from the Procurement Section, Task Force-General Services at Rm. 704, 7th Floor, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Ave., Makati City starting **October 7, 2004.**

Submission of Eligibility Requirements & opening of bids which will be conducted at Rm. 602, 6th Floor, Pag-IBIG Multi Purpose Hall, The Atrium of Makati Building, Makati Ave., Makati City is tentatively scheduled, as follows:

Particulars	Date – Time
Desktop Computers	November 3, 2004 – 1:30 p.m.
Pag-IBIG Membership Identification System	November 8, 2004 – 1:30 p.m.

Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the government. Further, Pag-IBIG Fund assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Cesar V. Racoma/Mr. Nazario U. Benedicto at 811-42-62, 894-58-15 or visit our Corporate Website at http://www.pagibigfund.gov.ph or e-mail us at hdmfgpis@info.com.ph

(Sgd.) EMMA LINDA, B. FARIA
Senior Vice President, Technical Support Group
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, Chair, BAC-GS

(PDI – Oct. 7, & 14, 2004)

BUSINESS

Petron, Total raise prices of diesel, LPG

By Abigail L. Ho

INDUSTRY leader Petron Corp. yesterday raised the prices of its diesel and kerosene by 35 centavos a liter and its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by 50 centavos a kilogram.

The price increase took effect at 12:01 a.m. yesterday.

Finished product importer Total (Philippines) Corp. also implemented an increase in cooking gas prices last Monday but at a higher P1.50 per kilogram.

Total had earlier announced a 35-centavo-a-liter price increase for diesel and kerosene, implemented the same day as oil refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and fellow refined product importers Caltex Philippines Inc. and Flying V.

New oil player Seaoil Petroleum Corp., meantime, effected a rollback of 35 centavos a liter on its diesel and kerosene after earlier announcing a price increase of 70 centavos for the same two products.

Market forces prompted Seaoil to match its competitors' price movements.

Since the beginning of the year, diesel prices had gone up 11 times by a total of P5.25-P5.40 a liter.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said in an earlier interview that the Department of Energy would continue to appeal to oil firms not to implement big price increases, particularly on the socially sensitive diesel.

Instead, he said price increases should be implemented on a staggered basis—more frequent but at lower amounts.

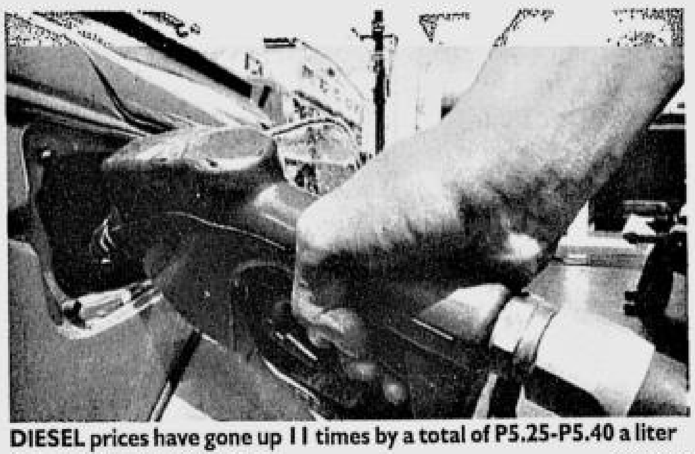
Local diesel prices have risen to reflect the escalating prices of diesel in the international market.

Diesel based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products averaged $54.29 a barrel in September, rising almost $3 from the August average of $51.66.

The uptrend is seen to continue in the coming months, Perez said, as international prices showed no sign of letting up.

Persistent threats as well as actual acts of terrorism in Iraq, continuing unrest in Nigeria, the uncertain state of Russian oil giant Yukos, and the huge Chinese and American demand continue to drive world oil prices up.

The advent of the winter months in the northern hemisphere is also seen to boost international prices even more.



DIESEL prices have gone up 11 times by a total of P5.25-P5.40 a liter since the start of the year. PDI PHOTO

BSP rules out hike in key policy rates

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday ruled out any immediate hike in interest rates in the Philippines despite a sharp spike in inflation.

Acting central bank governor Armando Suratos said inflation this year and next might exceed government targets but the bank expects short-term pressures arising from high oil prices to ease in 2006.

"Given the lack of preponderant evidence of demand-driven inflationary pressures or second-order inflationary effects from ongoing supply shocks, the (central bank) finds no compelling reason at this time to modify present monetary policy settings," Suratos said in a statement.

He said the central bank, however, "continues to stand ready to respond" in the event price pressures grow as a result of supply-side shocks or developments on the foreign exchanges as a result of narrowing interest rate differentials between the Philippines and other countries.

Consumer prices rose by a higher -than-expected 7.2 percent in September due to higher oil and food prices, up from 6.8 percent in August.

The central bank has kept interest rates unchanged for a year at their lowest levels in 12 years. Overnight rates are at 6.75 percent for borrowing and 9.00 percent for lending.

"Monetary authorities believe that ongoing pressures on inflation remain largely rooted in the impact of supply shocks on prices. They also continue to expect that supply-side factors will remain the primary source of risk to the inflation outlook," Suratos said. AFP

Offer to build $600-M MRT-7 rejected

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ARROYO administration rejected a private group's initial proposal to build Line 7 of Metro Rail Transit (MRT-7) due to the huge cost the government would be required to shoulder in the first nine years of the railway's operations.

Universal LRT Corp., the consortium, was asked to improve its proposal within 18 months for the government's consideration.

Neda Director General Romulo Neri said projects that were financially dependent on the government would not longer be approved in view of the country's fiscal problem. He said only projects that would not aggravate the government's already gaping budget deficit had the chance of getting approved.

The proposed MRT-7, which will run from North Edsa to Tala, Novaliches, was estimated to cost $600 million.

According to its operational and financial design, however, the mass transport system's revenue from ridership will not be enough to cover all its expenses in the first nine years of operations. The project is expected to incur a deficit of about P100 million a year.

Universal LRT wanted the government to absorb the deficits during the nine-year period.

The consortium said that surpluses would be posted beginning the 10th year of operations, and that the government could be gradually paid for its advances by then until the 25th year.

Under the proposal, the consortium, led by former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo, will build, operate and maintain the MRT-7 for 25 years, after which it will be transferred to the national government. The consortium said it would also take charge of raising the financing for the project.

"We want them to improve on their proposal so that the government will no longer have to shoulder the deficits," Neri told reporters after attending the Philippine Business Conference yesterday.

Neda's Investment Coordination Committee, the one responsible for approving government projects, has given Universal LRT Corp. 18 months to rehash the project proposal in such as a way that its financing will not result in cash flow deficits.

The development of the MRT-7 project was earlier approved by the Neda-ICC, but it will have to undergo another round of deliberations by the agency if the consortium failed to submit an improved proposal within 18 months.

The Neda-ICC wants a project proposal that will not require advances from the national government and that will not show cash flow deficits.

Once the consortium submits a proposal that is already acceptable to the government, it will have to be advertised and opened to challenge by other interested investors.

Neri said the government had adopted the policy of approving only projects that were deficit-neutral and do not require subsidies so that efforts to develop the country's infrastructure would not adversely affect its finances. The country's chief economist stressed that there was a need to balance the need to develop the country's weak infrastructure and solve the fiscal problem.

The national government's budget deficit stood at P199.9 billion last year and is expected to hit P197.8 billion by yearend. Its debt has already ballooned to over P3 trillion as of the first half.

To address the fiscal problem, the government is lining up revenue-enhancement measures such as new taxes and cost-cutting initiatives like streamlining of the bureaucracy.

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LOW MONTHLY Based on 50% D/P at 60 months P7,927	LOW MONTHLY Based on 50% D/P at 60 months P9,441	LOW MONTHLY Based on 50% D/P at 60 months P10,582
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Actual Cash Out P405,000	Actual Cash Out P387,000	Actual Cash Out P368,000
LOW MONTHLY Based on 50% D/P at 60 months P27,231	LOW MONTHLY Based on 50% D/P at 60 months P26,150	LOW MONTHLY Based on 50% D/P at 60 months P25,008
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FOR REAL THIS TIME?

Another water-powered engine in the works

By Tessa R. Salazar

THINK out of the box. Challenge existing norms. Newton, Edison, the Wright brothers and even Henry Ford all thought ahead of their time, and risked being the laughing stock of the world. In the end, not only they succeeded in their Quixotic quest, but also their discoveries and inventions became the norm for which future models and systems would be based on.

Such was how the director of the Department of Science and Technology's Technology Application and Promotion Institute (Tapi) Malou Orijola likened inventors in the Philippines when asked about a certain Glenn Castillo claiming to have put together a water-powered engine powerful enough for use in automobiles.

Castillo, 37, a graduate of electronics and communications engineering at the Adamson University and a graduate of industrial electronics at Awaki Electronics in Tokyo, has displayed his water-powered engine, a hydrogen reactor, at Tuesday's exhibit of the Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce with six other inventors at the Manila Hotel. The DOST has allowed him to display his invention to attract possible investors.

Would this mean, however, the extinction of billions of fossil-fueled internal combustion engines in the near future? The inventor himself is uncertain on this aspect, and hints that additional work on his invention still needs to be done. "Even if there are issues such as the engine's problem with rust and energy imbalance and the need for another engine to produce hydrogen fuel aside from the engine to run the machine, we are continuously exploring," said Castillo.

Despite these obstacles, Orijola said Tapi is encouraging inventors like Castillo to challenge the accepted norms. She said she hopes senators and congressmen could allot more funding for the inventors' projects.

> Inventors from other countries have been developing their own hydrogen-powered engines. The main difference Castillo's engine has is that his reactor separates hydrogen from oxygen

Castillo has been focusing his creative energies on inventing power-saving devices for 16 years. Three months ago, he finally showed Tapi, government officials and some representatives of the congress his water-powered engine.

Portable reactor

Castillo explained that his breakthrough involved a reactor powered by minimal voltage. This reactor, in turn, separates enough hydrogen from water to run an automobile engine.

The reactor effectively eliminated the need to install another engine to separate hydrogen from water. "We could have produced hydrogen in another engine to current amplifications. But what we did was amplify the current. Instead of putting another engine, we amplified and doubled the current to the demands of the engine."

The hydrogen reactor was developed three years ago. The basic fuel cycle starts with water, which, when circulated through the reactor, will be broken down to its basic components of hydrogen and oxygen using a 12-volt DC (direct current) power supply. The hydrogen goes to the engine, directly to the combustion chamber. The separated oxygen is expelled as emission, and rejoins with hydrogen. The emission result would be ordinary water in gaseous form.

FILIPINO inventor Glen Castillo shows his hydrogen reactor during an exhibit at the Manila Hotel.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Aside from the prototype reactor and engine displayed at the Manila Hotel, Castillo already has a working engine fitted on his 4500-cc Lexus SUV. He said his Lexus now runs on 80 percent hydrogen and 20 percent diesel. He said he was now fitting another water-powered engine on an owner-type jeep.

"We are persistent. We have proven that a 12-volt DC power supply could continuously charge the battery."

Fellow inventors from other countries, particularly Japan, Castillo said, have been developing their own hydrogen-powered engines. The main difference his engine has from theirs, he explained, is that his reactor separates hydrogen from oxygen. He added that the other inventors had to source their hydrogen supply from outside suppliers, making the fuel itself more expensive.

But because Castillo's reactor does the job by itself, all the users have to do is go to the nearest water refilling station and buy distilled water.

Castillo claims that funding, mostly from venture capitalists, has been offered. He said he had been offered a $150-million grant from a Japanese venture capitalist and another $150 million from an Australian businessman. He said his group, composed of inventors such as Popoy Pagayon, is taking its time with respect to accepting these grants.

Not new

But Castillo is not the first who has claimed his reactor could separate hydrogen from water. Daniel Dingel, an inventor who has claimed for years that he had developed such a reactor, had previously shown apprehension over going public about his reactor.

This time, Castillo goes a step bolder by showing how his reactor works.

"Before my demonstration, I always ask spectators which would be more powerful, water or gasoline. After seeing the demonstration, the skeptics see that water, indeed, is more powerful.

"Hydrogen is the lightest element in the universe. It's the most abundant element on earth."

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Meeting the challenge of sustainable mobility

EVERY year industry leaders, government officials, media and other environmentally focused organizations come together for the largest environmental vehicle event in the world—the Michelin Challenge Bibendum.

These representatives from the world's transportation and environment industries participate in the event, which was created and organized by French tiremaker, Michelin, to highlight and discuss the progress being made toward sustainable mobility and environmentally positive transportation issues which will have a direct impact on the future of humanity.

The development of mobility is one of man's greatest conquests over the last century and, largely due to motor transport, it is also a significant vector for growth for all societies.

Road infrastructure and vehicles give us freedom to work, trade, transport, visit and meet.

None of us today can imagine what a world without cars would be like.

However, the questions remain: What will we use to run our cars when the world's supply of fossil fuel runs out? How can we reduce emissions and the consumption of our natural resources? What sort of a future do we want for our children and our environment?

The increase in the number of vehicles and the problems that this entails (800 million cars in 2000, up to 2 billion in 2050) make the future of mobility look uncertain.

Challenge that must be met

Michelin understands that this is a challenge that must be met head-on and that transportation and a clean environment can exist simultaneously. Thus, it has always been a partner for mobility and now offers all those involved in the automotive and transportation sectors an opportunity to develop and evaluate the performance of their safest and cleanest technologies to meet that challenge.

Every year, Michelin's Challenge Bibendum presents the best inventions from the world's largest vehicle manufacturers, equipment manufacturers and energy suppliers through a series of tests (pollution analysis, noise, performance, safety and design) which subject them to normal road conditions.

MICHELIN chief executive officer Edouard Michelin and Bibendum

The diversity of the solutions proposed by various players in the Challenge Bibendum offer a glimpse into a new era for mobility. From new internal combustion engines to electric or hybrid vehicles, from fuel cell technology and biofuels to tires with low rolling resistance, each invention is a sign of hope in the attempts to reconcile mobility and harmony with the environment.

The entire event is organized by a project team, supported by an international team who validate the technical standards (with input from sporting bodies, journalists, the automotive industry, consumer organizations, government agencies), decide upon the list of tests and ensure that they are properly carried out.

With all the participants in the Challenge, Michelin is striving to make a new contribution to a world of innovation, which addresses the needs of both humankind and nature.

During the opening of the 2003 Michelin Challenge Bibendum, which was held in Sonoma, California, USA, Michelin chief executive officer Edouard Michelin said, "The Michelin Challenge Bibendum was created in 1998 to celebrate the Bibendum's 100th birthday and to show that the pollution-free, environmentally-integrated car of our dreams is on its way. It is up to us to speed its arrival!

Central to progress

"With the invention of the pneumatic tire came the rise of the automobile. The tire will again be central to progress, in particular in the drive for greater fuel efficiency. That is why I believe that Michelin, in partnership with the major automobile manufacturers of the world, should act to promote two inseparable issues—mobility and respect for the environment," he added.

The 2004 Challenge Bibendum will be held from Oct. 12 to 14 in Shanghai, China. The new Shanghai International Circuit, which recently hosted the first Chinese Formula One Grand Prix, will be the venue for a series of emissions and technical tests such as acceleration, braking, slalom, drive-by noise, fuel efficiency for light and heavy-duty vehicles (car, SUV, van, pickup) and a road rally in and around Shanghai, wherein participants are awarded based on their performance in the tests.

Michelin manufactures and sells tires for every type of vehicle, including airplanes, automobiles, bicycles, earthmovers, farm equipment, heavy-duty trucks and the space shuttle. It also publishes travel guides, maps and atlases covering Europe, Asia, Africa and North America.

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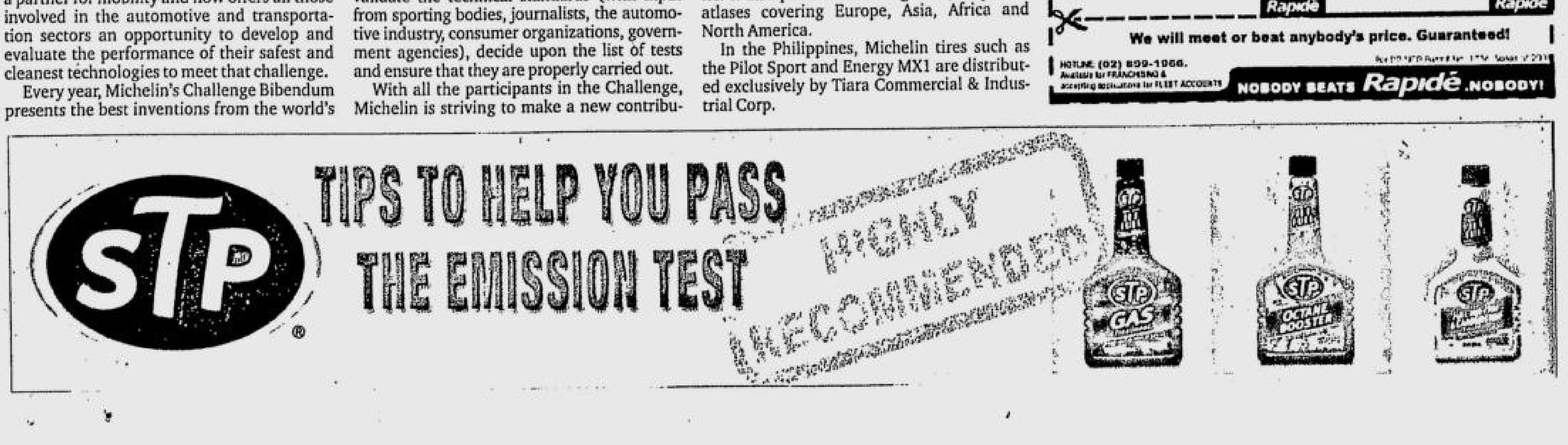


Motoring writers, broadcasters form group to evaluate cars

By Tessa R. Salazar

EVER heard of testing cars for a living?

Writing for motoring is one of the most sought-after media careers in the United States, Europe and Asia—next to being car race drivers or automotive engineers, perhaps. And the popularity is growing, as evidenced with the increasing attention generated by motoring and motorsports.

For the past few years, there have been an increasing number of publications and broadcast programs about motoring and motorsports.

However, never before has the Philippine motoring industry moved as one in determining which among the numerous automobile brands introduced over a certain period of time are the real deal. Test driving a car together with expressing your own objective and personal evaluations about it is one thing. But a group of about 40 to 50 motoring journalists involved in marathon testing, using sophisticated instruments and decades of accumulated driving experiences, and employing an independent set of auditors to evaluate the journalists' evaluations, is another.

That is why Car of the Year Philippines has been regarded an ambitious project—motoring writers and broadcasters who have expressed their participation admit—but one, they say, that would hopefully build up an image that motoring journalists in the Philippines are one in using standardized testing methods for the sole purpose of pinpointing the best buys for auto buyers from different market levels.

For six successive weekends (about 10 writers each weekend), starting on Saturday, Oct. 9 and ending Nov. 23, up to 50 motoring writers and broadcasters will converge and evaluate cars introduced in 2004.

Ten major awards will be given out. These are best super mini for small passenger cars below 1.5 liters; best sport compact for 1.6 to 2 liters; best executive sedan, best luxury sedan, best SUV lite, best luxury SUV, best AUV, best pickup, best van.

The special awards will be given to the most fuel-efficient, safest vehicle, best value for money, best in design, best marketing campaign, most eco friendly and best in technical innovation.

The top award will be chosen from the 10 winners of the major awards.

The highlight of the test will be an awards ceremony in February 2005.

Instrumented tests

The Car Awards Group Inc. decided to have simple testing for its first year. To help in precision testing, instruments will measure the various drive behaviors of all vehicles tested, such as quantitative testing for acceleration (0-100-0), braking cabin noise and fuel efficiency under normal driving conditions.

A data logger, which is much like the black box of an airplane, records the differences in acceleration and deceleration. It also logs the revving characteristics of the vehicles. It can record two hours of real time data. Another instrument to be used would be the sound level meter.

The second and third years will have more complicated tests and will include "aspirational" cars.

Subjective tests

A test sheet will be given to each tester containing guide parameters concerning innovation, design, safety, handling, driver satisfaction, value for money, riding comfort, handling, exterior, interior, driver flexibility and seat settings, ergonomics and special features.

"We are proud to see the growing collaboration among the motoring journalists which can only provide more impetus to further professionalize the industry," said Elizabeth H. Lee, president of Truck Manufacturers Association and vice president of Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc.

Lee added that the group's objective of recognizing notable development in the automotive industry is commendable and long overdue and shall serve the best interests of the consumers.

One of the first who showed enthusiasm is Viking Cars Inc. president and CEO lawyer Arbert Arcilla. He said he is positive that this motoring event will be a success.

PORSCHE 911 Turbo Cabriolet offers the thrill of open-air motoring and supreme power and performance. Its outstanding features truly offer an incomparable driving experience. This Porsche is one of the cars featured at the German Auto Show.

Grand German auto show at Rockwell

VISITORS to the German Motor Show will literally stumble over the world's finest cars and motorbikes displayed all over the Rockwell Power Plant Mall from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Car company exhibitors comprise Audi, BMW, Mercedes Benz, Porsche and Volkswagen. Car part companies are represented by Robert Bosch Inc., Kelseat, Temic Automotive and Tuv Rheinland.

Guests are invited to have a seat in one of the extraordinary cars on display, to inspect the impressive technology and imagine how close to perfection owning a German car would be.

The German Auto Show, running until Oct. 17, is one of the many offerings in October's "Germany...it's more than you think!" organized by Fair & More. The cars, motorbikes and car parts will be displayed at the North Court, South Court, Plaza Car Park and R1 Bridgeway in Rockwell.

FROM LEFT are Shell companies in the Philippines country chair Edgar Chua, Secretary Perez and Pilipinas Shell VP for Retail Sammy de Guzman

DOE fuel economy run in Southern Mindanao

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez led the ceremonial fill, with Shell companies in the Philippines country chair Edgar Chua and Pilipinas Shell vice president for retail Sammy de Guzman, during the DoE Fuel Economy Run in Southern Mindanao on Sept. 17 at Maa Shell service station in Davao City.

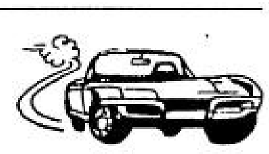
The said Fuel Economy Run of the Department of Energy aims to promote the efficient utilization of energy including fuel by increasing fuel economy consciousness among consumers as well as to establish the impact and significance of proper vehicle maintenance and efficient driving techniques on private-owned passenger cars.

Fueled by Shell Better Mileage gasoline (Shell Super Premium), 18 private-owned passenger cars, divided into three categories according to engine displacement—below 1.5 L, 1.5-1.6 L and 1.8 L and above—drove en route 107.5 kilometers covering the cities of Davao-Tagum-Davao route with a maximum speed limit of 80 kilometers per hour.

The run started and ended at Maa Shell service station, Maa, Davao City, to accurately measure the fuel consumption of each participating vehicle.

Volvo reenergizing life; No. 1 D'Max

FULL TANK



Al Mendoza

THE VOLVO S40, in case you haven't heard yet, is one car that redefines class in a society used to seeing large cars as luxury per se. For, the truth is, the S40 is almost akin to everything luxurious. I view the S40 in terms of Three E's: elegance, essentially classic, exceptional speed.

Try finding a car in its category that has all the trimmings of the Three E's mentioned above and you will only be disappointed. You will not even find one approximating the three.

* * *

Speaking of Volvo, the latest issue of Volvo Magazine has come up with an interesting article about—brace yourself up—how not to hate the magical line of Volvo cars but rather, on how to reenergize your life with a "cathartic guide to well-being."

The article is quite long, so initially, let me just give you, for now, three of its salient points:

1. TAKE CONTROL. If the idea of going on a detox[ification] diet makes you blanch, why not try a more gentle preemptive pretox program, designed to deep-clean your body and minimize the damage of future overindulgence? Following these simple rules can boost your immune system and energy levels, help you lose a kilogram or two, and eliminate the need to force-feed yourself wheatgrass and fiber powder when lethargy hits: most importantly, drink water. Quaff it neat, with lemon, or in herbal teas, but build up to drinking at least two liters a day to improve liver and kidney function. Second, reduce your salt intake. Refined salt (pure sodium chloride) causes high blood pressure, so switch to hand-harvested salt, which contains elements that protect us from sodium chloride retention. Last but not least, walk. A recent Harvard study shows that walking for 30 minutes a day can cut the risk of heart disease by up to 40 percent. It also improves immunity and increases libido.

2. STABLE-IZE. Did you know that animals often reflect the moods of their owners? Contrary to popular belief, our four-legged friends are hugely sensitive, and can easily pick up on human emotions. This is used to great effect in the Equine Experience at the Miraval Life in Balance Resort in Arizona. Developed by resident therapist Wyatt Webb, it's an exercise in self-discovery, working on the basis that the way a guest relates to their horse reflects the way in which they handle their lives. "Primarily, it can help you correct misconceptions about who you are," says Webb. "Most people arrive with many defenses designed to portray themselves as socially acceptable." If you're fed up with having to rein yourself in and crave the freedom to express yourself, this one might be for you.

3. BALANCE YOUR DOSHAS. Detoxed to within a millimeter of your life and still not satisfied? Why not give "Ayurveda" a go? Sanskrit for "life" and "knowledge," Ayurveda is an ancient system of holistic medicine that has been practiced in India for more than 5,000 years. It works on the theory that the body is made up of three doshas (body types)—*vata* (light, dry), *pitta* (hot, oily); and *kapha* (heavy, cold)—and the internal balance of the doshas is the key to good health. According to Dr. Vikas Gupta, Ayurveda physician at the Ananda Spa, treatment begins with "an identification and assessment of the individual's constitution to diagnose the cause and whereabouts of the imbalance of the doshas." Once identified, there are myriad treatments to restore your troubled dosha. Choose from the utterly blissful (warm oil massage treatments), to the slightly unnerving (enemas and induced vomiting). Well, no one ever said that the pursuit of well-being would be easy...

That's just about it for now. Meanwhile, thank you to Loi M. Concepcion, the corporate communications supervisor. In Loi, lawyer Albert Arcilla, sure, has a gem within the confines of Volvo Cars. Loi was one who sent me the sleek and highly informative Volvo Magazine.

* * *

Congratulations to Isuzu Philippines Corp. for having successfully staged recently its Customers Awareness Month (CAM).

Using the theme, "Unity & Communication: Key Towards Customer Satisfaction," Isuzu's CAM stressed the need to heighten awareness on customer service and strengthen employee relations through information dissemination and team-building activities.

IPC team members had gamely participated in team-building contests such as poster making, Wear-A-Slogan, Build & Accessorize-Ur-D-Max and Mini-Isuzu Challenge.

Said Ken Takashima, IPC vice president for marketing and sales: "I encourage all team members to continue to work towards unity and having open communication lines in our pursuit to produce only the best commercial vehicles and offer sterling customer service to the Philippine market."

The occasion was marked by the handing of prizes to winning employees, with IPC president Yoshifumi Komura gracing the ceremonies.

Now you know why the Isuzu D'Max has become the undisputed No. 1 pickup in the market today even as I take the occasion to nominate Ronald Montano as the Isuzu employee of the month for October.

* * *

QUOTE ME. If there's one automotive guy I value for all his candor and honesty, it is Arnel Doria of Honda. He tells it like it is—no matter who gets hurt. Here's to a guy who faces the music at all the times.

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Promo duration is from August 1 - December 31, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3722 Series of 2004

The 3.0 V6 Toyota Camry

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

AT FIRST glance, the 2004 3.0-liter V6 Toyota Camry may look exactly the same as the Camry that was launched here in July 2002. After all, the body shape and dimensions are the same. But don't judge a book by its cover: the '04 Camry has a lot of new features that could entice midsize sedan buyers away from competitors 3.0 V6 Honda Accord and 2005 Nissan Cefiro 300EX.

For starters, there is the new 3.0-liter V6 VVT-i (Variable Valve Timing-intelligence) 24-valve engine that develops peak 212 horsepower at 5,800 rpm, a significant 55 hp improvement over the 2002 2.4-liter Camry's 157 at 5,600 rpm. Max torque is 298 Nm/4,400 compared to the previous and present 2.4 model's 220 Nm/3,800-4,200 rpm. The bigger 3.0 V6 engine is mated to a new, silky-smooth Super ECT 5-speed automatic transmission replacing the 4-speed ECT AT. The 5-speed AT guarantees pleasant, responsive driving whether cruising at 160 km/hr on the traffic-free Skyway or negotiating bumper-to-bumper city traffic.

17-inch wheels

Up front, the grille, bumper and fog lamp are of new design. Longer-lasting, brighter High Intensity (HID) three-oval headlights replace the 4-lamp multi-reflector halogen headlights of old and now have an automatic headlight leveling device. The windshield is now equipped with an automatic rain sensor and the newly designed alloy wheels are larger at 17 inches for the 3.0 V6.

At the back, the chrome license plate garnish is wider and higher, thereby improving visibility. The taillights, shaped in the same three-oval design as the headlights, are L-shaped like the 2002 model but have more red area and the brake lamps light up faster because of LEDs (Light-Emitting Diodes).

Inside the cabin, the four-spoke leather steering wheel and the layout of the instrument panel are similar to the previous model's except for the Camry logo added to the optitron meters and darker maple replacing the walnut color of the woodgrain trim on the steering wheel, center cluster, gear shift and doorside armrests and spacious center console with two cupholders. A new audio system with a six-CD in-dash changer replaces the single in-dash MD/CD/MP3 player of 2002. The Optitron meter offering three lighting colors and conditions has been retained, ditto the six stereo speakers, pedal-type parking brake and all-power side mirrors, windows and door locks. Leather seats are still standard equipment, but this time the leather is perforated and there is a Camry logo on the front seats.

Noteworthy

The most noteworthy new features in the interior are the clearance and back sonar sensor that facilitates parking; power-adjustable front and rear seats; a power-assisted rear windshield sunscreen that goes up or down at the touch of a button and automatically goes down when the driver shifts into reverse; plus illuminated entry that lights up the foot area, door handles and the ignition bezel. The back sensor, however, does not stop beeping even when you turn off the sensor. Also new is the woodgrain trim on the rear seat center armrest with two cupholders, an L-shaped storage box and control switches for the sunscreen and the rear seat's adjustable recline/backrest. Power points for your cell phone, digicam or laptop are found in the front center console and rear seat armrest.

A new safety feature, SRS side airbags, supplements the two front airbags in the V6 Camry. Aside from the SRS airbags and clearance/back sensor, the list of standard safety equipment is long: disc brakes with ABS, EBD and BA (brake assistance) on all four wheels, GOA (Global Outstanding Assessment) reinforced cabin, side impact door beams, whiplash injury-lessening front seats, window jam protection, 3-point ELR seatbelts, head impact protection pillar/garnish, high-mount stop lamp and child lock protection.

Flawless

It's hard to find fault with the Camry as everything is where it should be and works flawlessly, One could wish, though, that the new Camry sold here for P1,680,000 had a telescoping steering wheel, cruise control and a traction control or vehicle skid control system. While the 3.0 V6 VVT-i engine delivers adequate power and runs quietly and smoothly, don't expect thrilling or sporty performance.

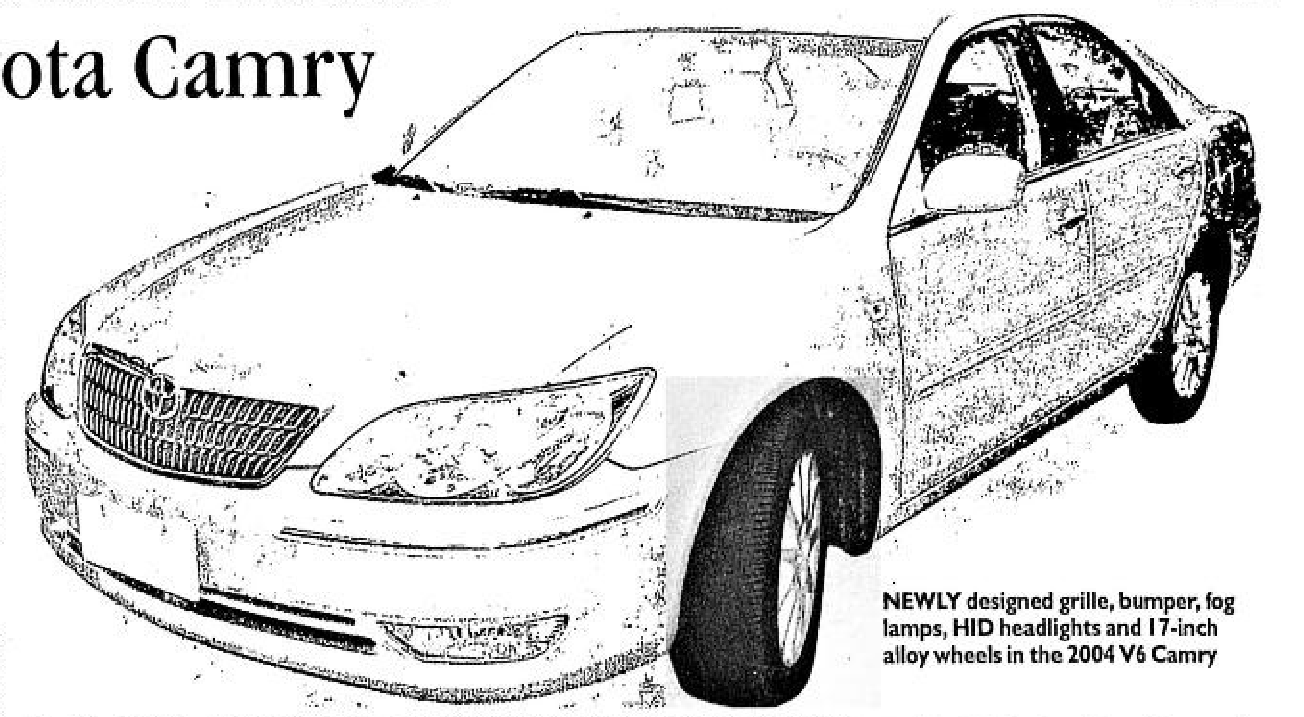
The Camry's strongest points are its extremely low levels of NVH (noise, vibration and harshness), the solid craftsmanship and finesse of its build, its ride quality since its suspension soaks up potholes and surface irregularities without wallowing, the luxury-level comfort of its seats and spacious, hushed cabin plus its track record for outstanding reliability and durability. No wonder it is Toyota's flagship model and has been competing with the Honda Accord as America's best-selling family sedan year after year. In fact, the highly respected Consumer Reports (April 2004) recommended the 2004 Camry as one of its three top-rated family cars. That's more than enough said.

* * *

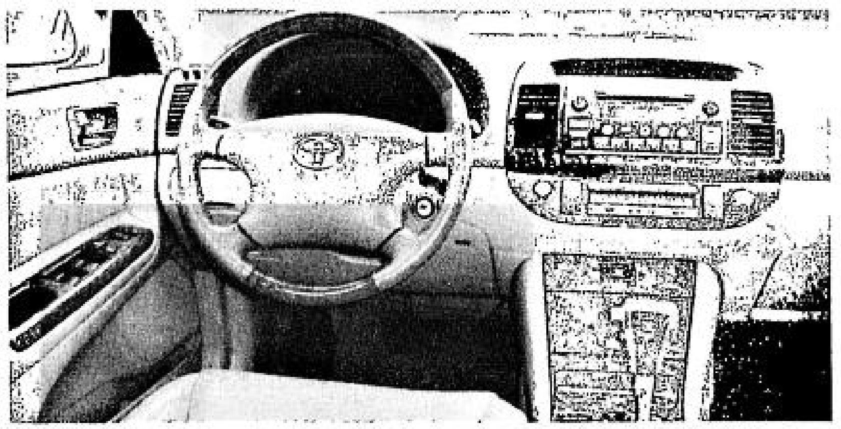
TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: What's another word for Thesaurus?

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)



NEWLY designed grille, bumper, fog lamps, HID headlights and 17-inch alloy wheels in the 2004 V6 Camry



A NEW 5-CD in-dash audio system and darker maple woodgrain trim are what's new in the interior.

PHOTOS BY: AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA

THE CAMRY'S 3.0-liter V6 DOHC 24-valve VVT-i engine produces 212 max horsepower at 5,600 rpm.

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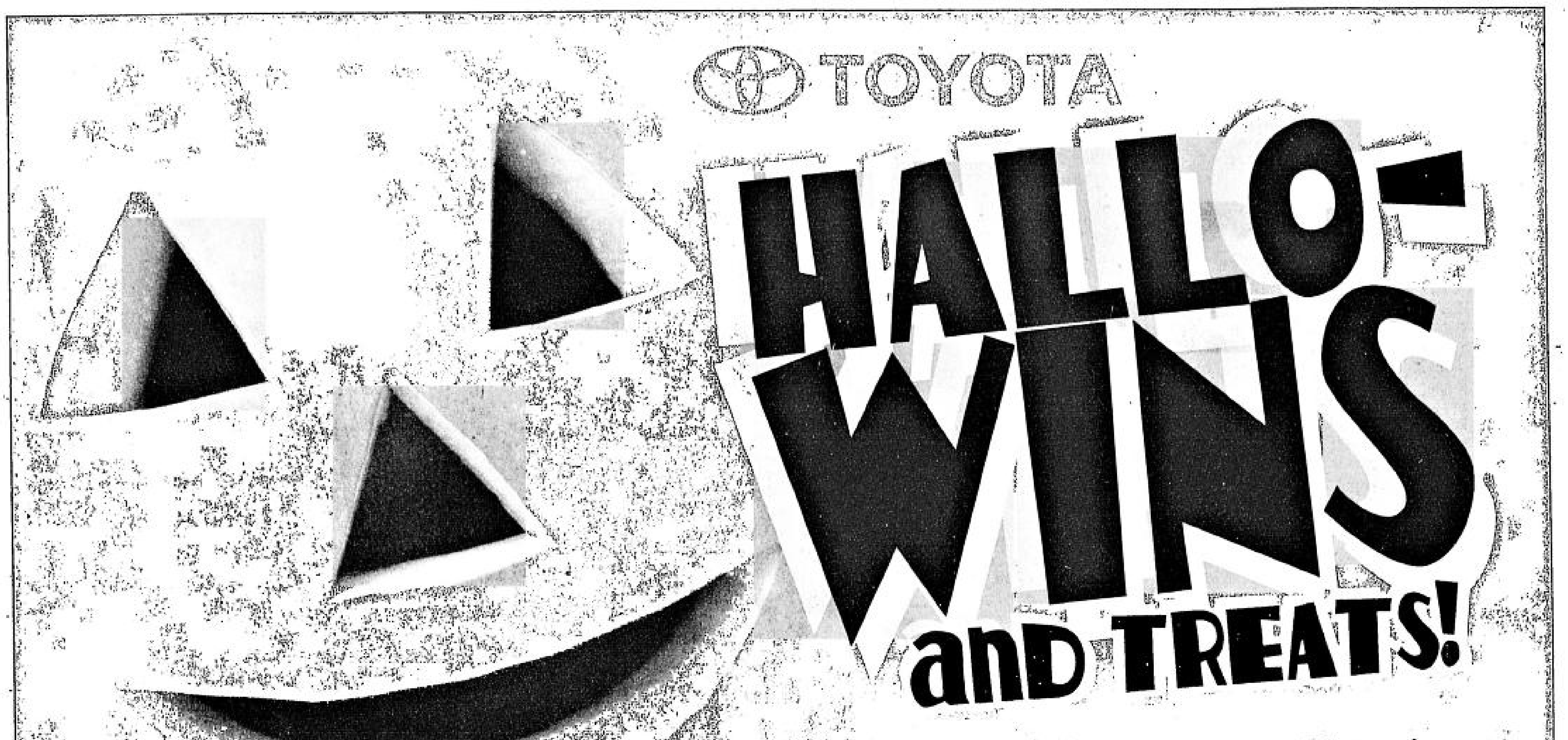

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- Raffle Draw is on October 16 and 31, 2004.

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ALTIS 1.6	3 coupons
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VX200 2.4 DSL M/T [Leather]	958,000	100,000	75,168	51,811	41,028	29,559	24,118	20,466
SR 1.8 GAS A/T	896,000	100,000	67,788	46,725	37,021	26,672	21,762	18,456
GSX 2.0 GAS A/T	847,000	100,000	63,368	43,678	34,610	24,935	20,345	17,253
GLX 1.8 GAS A/T	807,000	100,000	59,760	41,191	32,642	23,517	19,188	16,270
GL 1.8 GAS M/T	698,000	100,000	49,927	34,413	27,278	19,652	16,035	13,593
DLX 1.8 GAS M/T [15.08%]	663,000	100,000	46,917	32,237	25,555	18,411	15,022	12,734
DLX 1.8 GAS M/T [50%]	663,000	331,500	27,625	18,417	14,094	10,060	8,175	6,895
DLX 2.4 DSL M/T	690,000	100,000	50,991	35,147	27,840	20,057	16,365	13,883

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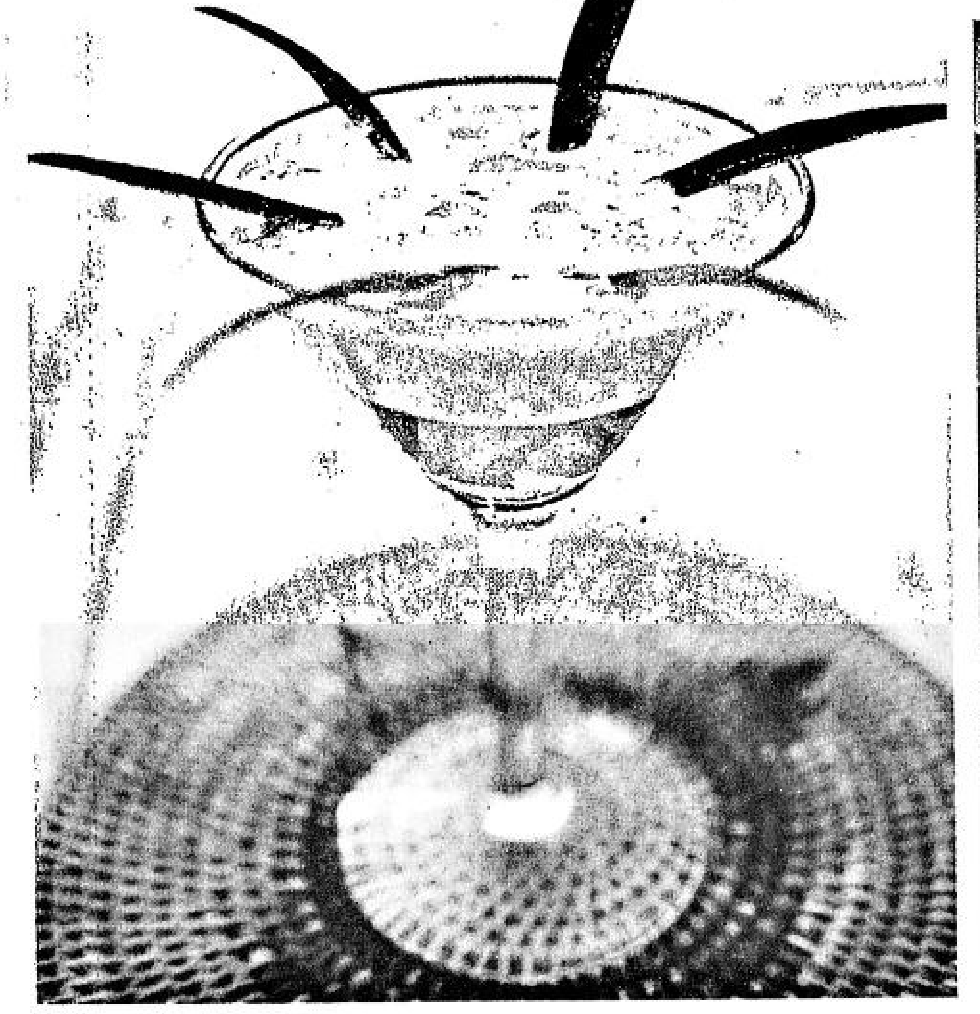
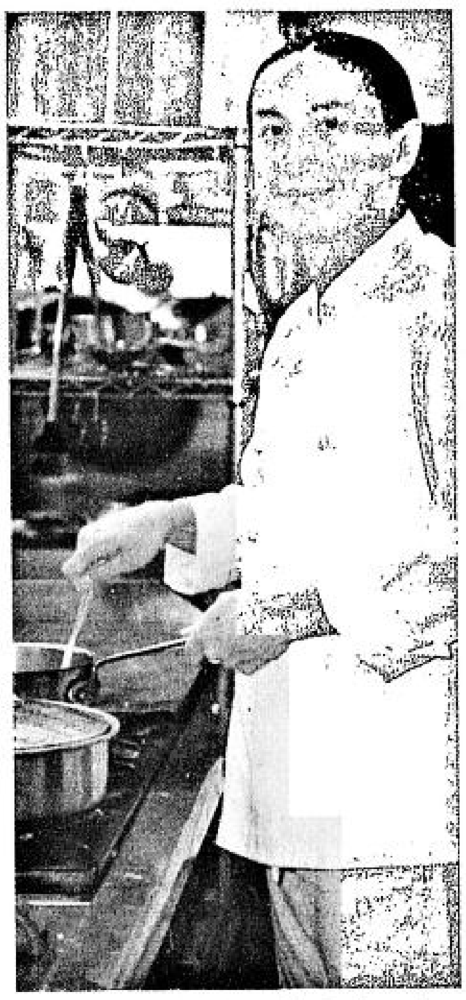
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSDAY **FOOD** ● FRIDAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**





CHEF Rolando Laudico and his Bonito aspic topped with shiitake cappuccino cream in martini glass (above, left)

Even top chefs can't exactly predict whether a dish will click or not

Hits and misses

By Jay Gamboa
Contributor

FOR the Pinoy version of the "Culinary Hits and Misses" feature in the Food Arts magazine, we asked four chefs to name the dishes that they thought would be certified winners but turned out to be duds, and those that surprisingly sold well.

Rolando Laudico

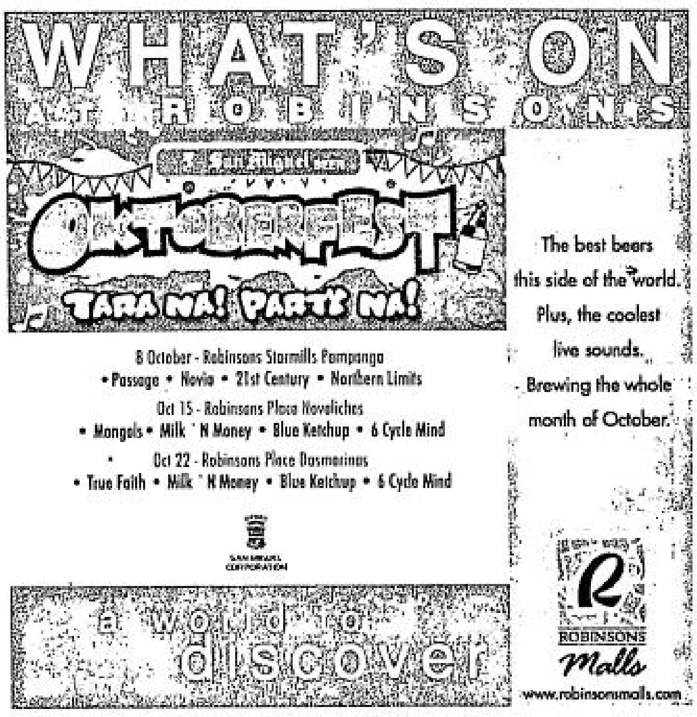
Hit Bonito aspic topped with shiitake cappuccino cream in martini glass

It's a fun kind of soup where there's a cold gelatin part topped with a hot creamy part. I wasn't sure if the guests would like it or even know how to eat it properly, but everyone seemed to enjoy the concept, and now I make different variations of the soup. It's great for other kinds of dishes too.

Miss Smoked cured magret duck breast with grilled polenta, drizzled with sun-dried tomato pesto and orange glaze

It's actually a good dish, but I made the mistake of not slicing the duck breasts thinly the first time I served it. The guests sliced it in big chunks to eat, which turned out really salty. Just imagine eating prosciutto an inch thick… More water, please!

HITS/ D2



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Masters in Cake Decorating, Wilton School, Chicago, U.S.A., 1974 under Martha & Stanley Wilton
Graduate : Chicago School of Cooking and Catering
Graduate : Full Course, Thai Cooking School at the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok
Studied cooking in Europe, South America & Hongkong
Co-founder, Reynoso Cooking and Baking School, March, 1963

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OCT. 9 SAT 2:00 - 6 PM MONEY MAKING SAUSAGE COURSE 1 - GERMAN (BRATWURST); HUNGARIAN KIELBASA, MEXICAN LA, GREEK, SHEBOYGAN BRATS. SAUSAGES BAGUIO AND CHORIZO MACAO BONUS ATCHARA & HOT POTATO-SALAD **BY LENI R. ARAULLO. P1,200**

OCT. 13 WED 2:30 - 5:30PM - MORE MONEY MAKING OPPORTUNITES. SAVORY STYLE FRIED CHICKEN. ROAST MONTEREY PORK LIEMPO. MRS. OLIVIA TEE'S FOOKIEN STYLE AMOY FRESH LUMPIA, PORK SIOMAI WITH QUAIL EGGS; HONGKONG SHRIMP SIOMAI, HACAO(SHRIMP DUMPLING WITH HOMEMADE CLEAR WRAPPER) **P1,200**

OCT- 14 THURS - 2:00 - 6:00 PM - MONEY MAKING SAUSAGES COURSE 3. LEARN 7 OF YOUR FAVORITES FOOTLONG HOTDOGS, BEEF SAUSAGE JERKY USING "VIPPI", CASING USED FOR HOTDOG-MAKING; WHOLE CORNED BEEF SERVED IN FIVE STAR HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS, PORK HAMONADO & BEEF DE RECADO, THE BEST PAMPANGO PORK TOCINO, LONGANIZA LUCBAN **P1,200. BY LENI R. ARAULLO.**

OCT. 15 FRI 2:30 - 6:00PM - AMY PAMINTUAN'S LEMON TORTE; JAPANESE HONEY CREAMCHEESE COFFEECAKE, MANGO PANNA COTTA WITH MANGO SAUSE, SYLVIA'S MOCHA SANS RIVAL WITH MUSHROOM CAPS **P1,200.**

OCT. 16 SAT 2:30 - 6:00PM OPEN A PIZZA PARLOR. LEARN TO MAKE THESE ITALIAN FAVORITES. MOZZARELLA TOPPED-BIG AND THICK CRUST PIZZA(BAKED IN A RECTANGULAR PAN), THIN CRUST PIZZA WITH DIFFERENT TOPPINGS; FETTUCINE ALFREDO, SPAGHETTI; CARBONARA, BREADED VEAL SEAKS WITH LEMON, PEACH-FILLED CREPES WITH FRUIT SAUCE. PLUS 12 BONUS RECIPES OF PASTAS AND SANDWICHES. **P1,200. BY ERNEST.**

OCT. 17, 24 NOV. 7 - 3 SUNDAYS 9:00 - 5:00PM FONDANT ICING AND GUMPASTE FLOWERS COURSE - P3,500- INCLUDING INGREDIENTS LUNCH AND SNACK. **LESSON 1** DAISY, TULIP, SAMPAGUITA, APPLE BLOSSOM AND SWEET PEA MAKE DIFFERENT KINDS OF LEAVES STAMENS, CALYX FOR FUTURE USE **LESSON 2** CAKE (STYRO) COVERED WITH FONDANT ICING AND "CUT GLASS" TECHNIQUE, MAKE GUMAMELA, LILIES STEPHANOIS CHRYSANTHEMUM, CARNATION, DAFFODIL, WILTON ROSE, VICTORIA ROSE **LESSON 3** ORCHID, GUMPASTE RIBBONS & SWAGS PREPARATION & DECORATION OF FONDANT WEDDING CAKE (FOR TAKE HOME) **BY LENI R. ARAULLO**

OCT 19 TUE 2:30 - 5:30PM - MAX'S STYLE FRIED CHICKEN. JOLLIBEE STYLE CHICKEN W/ GRAVY; CHICKEN BURGER, DELICIOUS POTATO SALAD, SIZZLING GRILLED PORK CHOPS, FOUR SEASONS PUNCH, RIPE MANGO JUICE, MELON TAPIOCA W/ SAGO, GREEN MANGO JUICE **P1,200**

OCT 20 WED 2:30 - 6:00PM - 2 KINDS OF ROASTBEEF - MONTEREY STANDING RIB-ROAST & BACON-WRAPPED BONELESS ROAST W/ GRAVY, CREMA DE FRUTA SIZZLING SHRIMPS IN GARLIC SAUCE, FRIED SQUID RINGS, CHICKEN ALEXANDER SEAFOOD MEDLEY SOUP SERVED ON CRUSTY BREAD BOWL FROM FRENCH BAKER **P1,200. BY ERNEST**

OCT 21, 28 NOV 4 & 11 - 4 THURSDAYS 9:00AM - 5:0PM - MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING, P4,500. INCLUDING INGREDIENTS, LUNCH & SNACKS (EXCPT DECORATING MATERIALS LIKE PIPING BAGS, TIPS, ETC AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE CULINARY STUDIO OR BRING YOUR OWN) **LESSON 1** FLUFFY BUTTER CREAM ICING, TECHNIQUES IN COLORING, BORDERS, SHELL ROPE, STAR, LEAF ZIGZAG "E" MOTION, FLEUR DE LIZ. MAKE GARLANDS & SWAGS. BASKET WEAVING LATTICE DESIGN, 12 DIFFERENT DESIGNS FOR TOP & SIDES OF CAKES. DIRECT PIPING OF CAKE OR ROSE BOUQUET, SWET PEA, CARNATION **LESSON 2** 5 KINDS OF ICING, INCLUDING MARSHMALLOW, ROYAL TO MAKE SUGAR FLOWERS ON NAILS, TOOTHPICK, FLORAL WIRE LEARN SUGAR MOLDING, CAKES FAN BOOTIES, BASKET CRIB, HEART, MARY'S HEAD, THE LION KING, DVD MUSICAL DESIGN CAKE, TWO ADULT "SEXY" CAKES EACH STUDENT MUST BRING TRAY/BOX TO TAKE HOME CAKES. **LESSON 3** MARZIPAN (FREEHAND) MOLDING & PAINTING OF FRUITS, FIGURES & VEGETABLES. LEARN THE MARZIPAN ROSE, FIGURE & FRUIT PIPING. DECORATE DIFFERENT DESIGNS ON MUFFINS FOR INDIVIDUAL SERVINGS, WHICH HOTELS & LUXURY LINERS SERVE **LESSON 4** HOW TO PREPARE DEBUTANTE/WEDDING CAKES; TIERD, STACKED ETC. EACH STUDENT WILL DESIGN & DECORATE A WEDDING CAKE (STYRO) TO BRING HOME. PLEASE BRING TRAY/BOX **BY LENI R. ARAULLO**

OCT 22 FRI 2:30 - 6:30PM - BAGUIO'S FAMOUS RAISIN BREAD; AMERICAN TASTY, HONEY BREAD, BUTTER BREAD, BRAIDED CHEESE BREAD, **MORELLA & ERNEST** BIG PANDESAL, SUPER-SOFT CARMELITE BREAD IN A BUNDT PAN DELICIOUS BREAD MADE EASY! **P1,200**

OCT 23 SAT 1:00 - 5:00PM - WILTON CHARACTER PAN BAKING / CAKE DECOR AT GOURDO'S AT THE FORT. PLEASE SEE OCT 7 SCHEDULE FORDETAILS. BY LENI R. ARAULLO. PLEASE CALL: 845-1700 * 887-4306 TO RESERVE.

OCT 23 SAT 2:30 - 6:00PM - HOLIDAY ROAST BUTTERBALL TURKEY W/ HAM - RAISIN STUFFING & GRAVY, WHITE FRUITCAKE, RIBBON PASTA W/ WILD MUSHROOM TRIFOLATI, DELICIOUS CHICKEN PILAF W/ OLIVES, CENTURY TUNA FISHCAKES W/ BACON SPINACH SIDINGS & CARAMELIZED ONIONS, BAKED BLUEBERRY CHEESECAKE **P1,200. BY ERNEST**

OCT 26 TUE 2:30 - 5:30PM - CHINESE COOKING PATA TIM (BRAISED PORK SHOULDER), SPICED CHILI CRABS, PATO TIM (BRAISED DUCK W/ VEGETABLES); SWEET & SOUR PORK, YANCHOW FRIED RICE, SPICY PRAWNS, CANDED BANANAS DIPPED IN ICE **P1,200.**

OCT 27 WED 2:30 - 5:30PM - DIMSUM SPICY CHICKEN FEET, PORK SPARERIBS, SHRIMPS - HAM ON TOAST, AUTHENTIC HONGKONG CHINESE CONGEE, W/ DIFFERENT TOPPINGS (FISH FILLET, PORK SZECHUAN, VEGETANBLES, BOLA-BOLA, SHRIMP, PORK LIVER, KIDNEY, PIG STOMACH) **P1,200.**

NOV 3 WED 2:30 - 5:30PM - 6 NEW HOT SHOT CHICKEN RECIPES. TENDER ROAST MAGNOLIA CHICKEN W/ SAUSAGE - APPLE STUFFING, CRISPY CHICKEN ROLLS, CRUNCHY CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS W/ CREAMY GRAVY, BAKED-NUT STUFFED CHICKEN BREASTS,CHICKEN CROQUETTES W/ CHEESY SAUCE, CHICKEN BREASTS W/ MUSHROOM GRAVY ON FRENCH BAKER'S WHOLE WHEAT **P1,200 BY ERNEST.**

NOV 5 FRI 2:30 - 6:15PM - LIGHT & AIRY ENSAYMADAS. CHEESE-ROLLS, SPECIAL EGG PANDESAL, PANDESAL W/ FILLING, CINNAMON ROLLS BREAD BAKING MADE EASY! **P1,200.**

NOV 6 SAT 2:30 - 6:15PM - LEARN THE SOFTEST SIOPAO DOUGH EVER! THE MOST DELICIOUS SIOMAI, KUAPAO, (PEKING SIOPAO W/ MEAT FILLING & PICKLED MUSTASA), FISH HEAD SOUP, CAMARON RELENADO, QUIKIAM W/ RADISH SALAD, STEAMED LAPU-LAPU **P1,200.**

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Hits and misses

DUET of grilled taucheo prawns, *blimbing* and squid ink butter, *ube* risotto, *achara* of cherry tomatoes

From page D1

QUITO Jose

Quito Jose

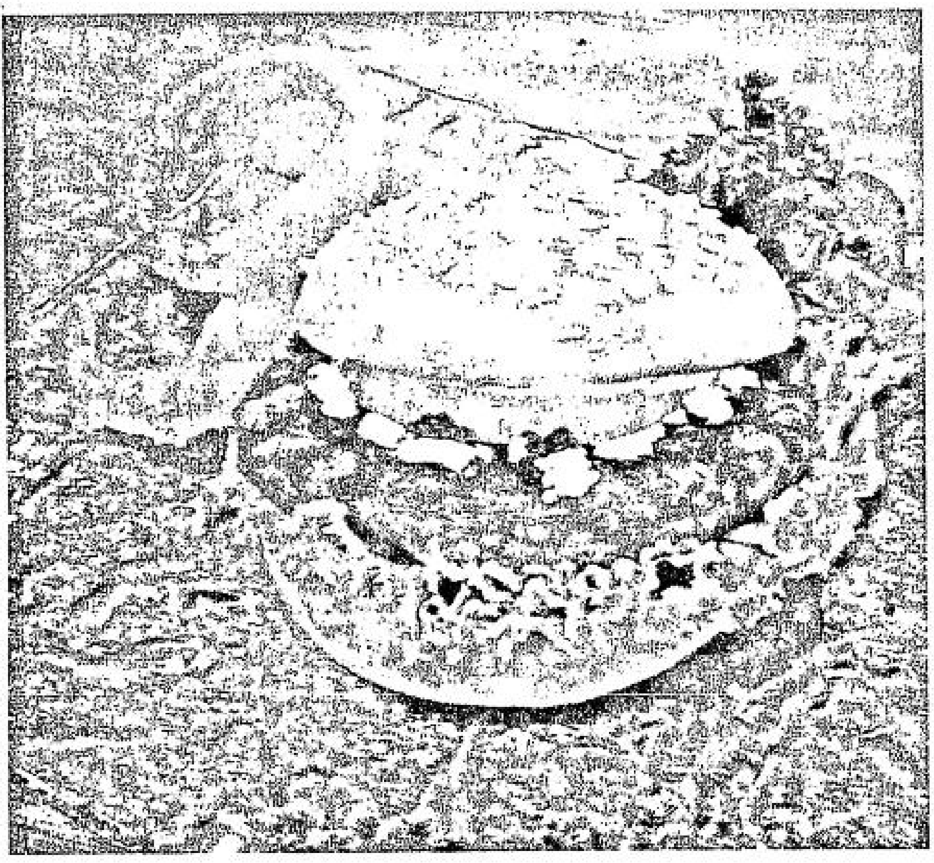
Hit Brothers' burger with cheese pimento

It is a favorite of my brother Martin. It's very simple and even ordinary, but certainly comforting at the same time. I decided to try it out as one of the "Brothers Suggestions" in all our stores, and was thrilled to see it become an instant culinary hit. It has become the best-selling Brothers Suggestion so far. Perhaps because everyone is familiar with cheese pimento as a favorite childhood *baon* or school *merienda*.

Miss Lamb burger

It did not perform the way we expected it to, but it will always be on our menu for sentimental reasons (it being our mom's favorite).

I worked for quite sometime on fine-tuning this product, perfecting the seasoning, getting the combination of the flavors just right, all along thinking that I was making a masterpiece! It is still available for adventurous gourmands.



LAMB burger

Reggie Aspiras

Hit Duet of grilled taucheo prawns, *blimbing* and squid ink butter, *ube* risotto, *achara* of cherry tomatoes

I made this dish when I was invited to Singapore. They wanted a Pinoy fusion repertoire that would be suitable to the Singaporean palate.

A lot of Nonya dishes start off with *rempah* (spice paste with a taucheo, a yellow bean base). I marinated my prawns in a mixture of taucheo, shallots, *gula melaka* (brown sugar made from coconuts), chilies and grilled them.

For an added twist, I came up with *blimbing* butter (a small green sour fruit, very similar to the *kamias*, not a *balimbing*, as most books define it; it is used frequently in Nonya sambals). This is a personal spin-off of the much-abused lemon butter, the thousand island to prawns. This is done by pureeing the little green fruit and adding clarified butter. Color was another consideration. So I made squid ink butter by combining both and adding *limau kasturi* (*calamansi*) and a bit of olive oil.

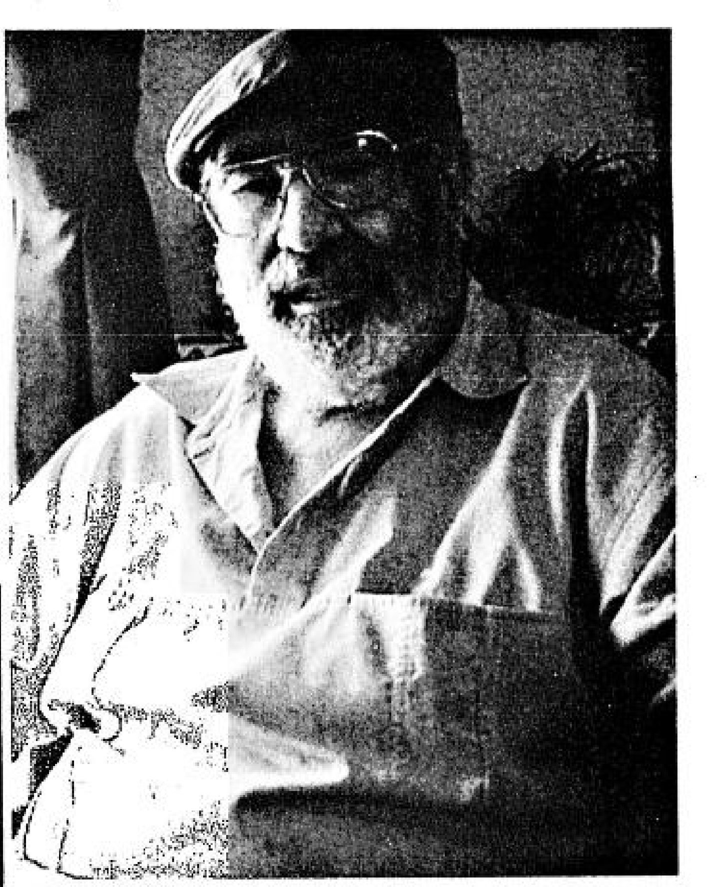
To satisfy my purple passion, I made an *ube* risotto using coconut milk. I capped it off with an *achara* of cherry tomatoes in pickling water and coriander, for an added burst of flavor and color. For garnishing, there was fried chervil.

It sold well because they didn't have much of a choice other than to eat it! Seriously, the Singaporeans pretty much knew what to expect from the dish. As for the Pinoy diners, oh well, like all Pinoys, they just ate!

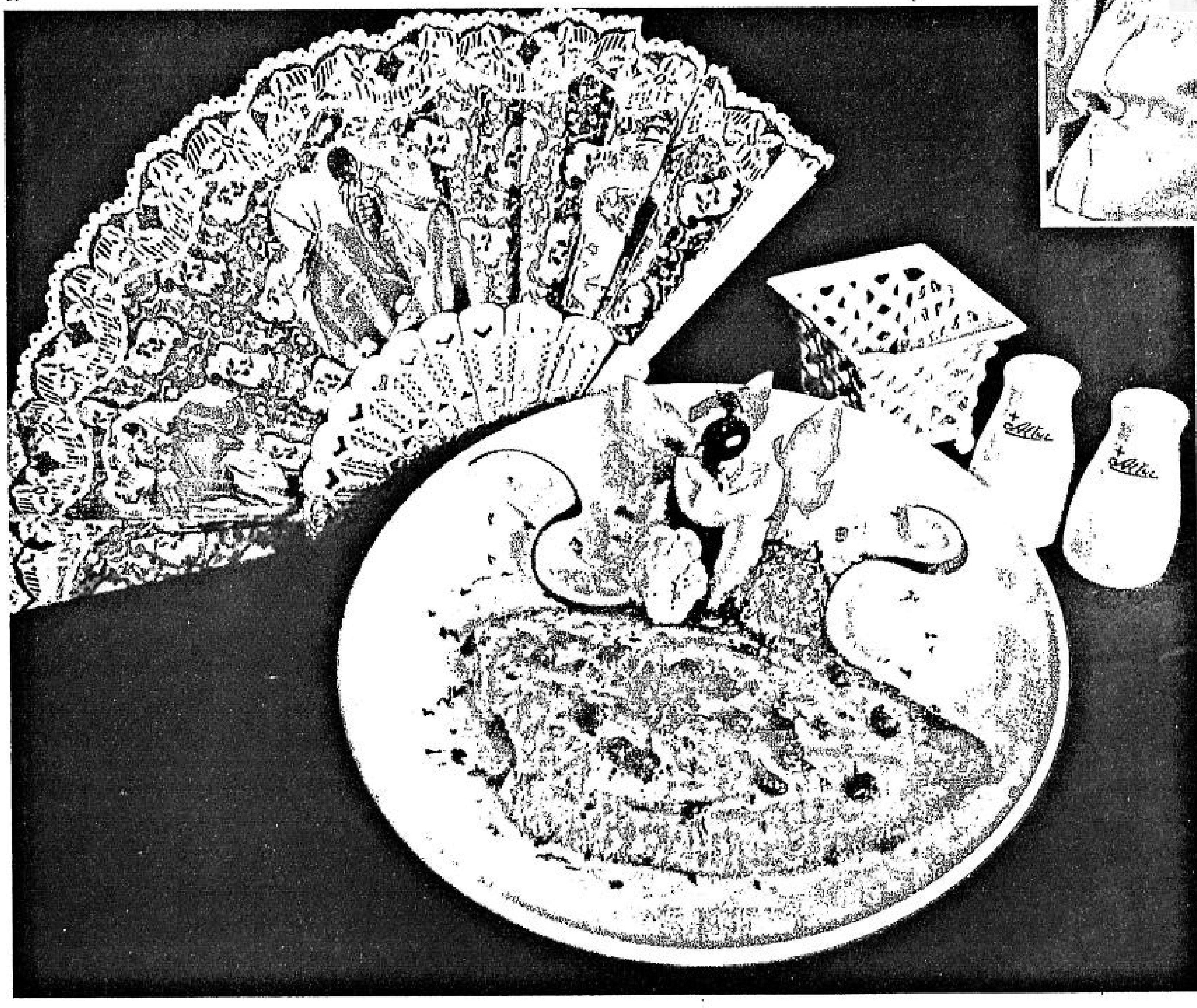
Miss Warm salad of goat cheese cappeletti, baby lettuce, walnut brittle

I don't really know why it didn't sell. Perhaps to many, goat is associated with *kaldereta*. Quesong Kambing, I guess, just doesn't cut it. But the salad remains one of my favorites.

REGGIE Aspiras



SEÑOR Anastacio Alba



NEGRO Sole with lemon butter sauce

Señor Anastacio Alba

Hit Negro Sole with lemon butter sauce

There was a time when the Negro Sole was not available in the market. But when it became available, and knowing the quality of the fish, I added it to my menu.

Suddenly it became the most popular among my fish dishes. It was done with not a lot of emphasis. The fish was seasoned with salt and pepper, dipped in milk, sprinkled with flour and pan fried in butter until it turned brown. The butter that was left was then heated. I added parsley and capers and used this as sauce.

I think the reason this dish sold well is because when Filipinos go out to dine, they most often choose something they do not have or cannot make at home.

Miss Codillo Al Pastor, braised lamb shank with mashed potatoes

I used to prepare this dish back in Spain. Even the chef of Generalissimo Franco was sent to me for training for one whole month, for him to learn how to make this dish.

The lamb shank is braised with the best ingredients, such as rosemary, good red wine and fresh vegetables. These were cooked in the oven to produce a flavorful sauce.

Personally, I consider lamb as one of the best meats around. It has the least amount of fat and yet it is very tasty. The only reason I can think of why this dish is not that saleable in the Philippines is lamb is not as popular as other meats such as chicken and beef.

Globalization increases risks of food contamination

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

ALL those mouthwatering stuff at the imported frozen food section of supermarkets! For example, the salmon, the Angus steak, lamb chops, seafood. And the varieties of exotic vegetables and fruits are almost too good to be true.

Do we thank globalization of the food trade for all those imported items that used to be rarities before the import liberalization days? Think again.

We hate to be a wet blanket, but the World Health Organization has warned that rapid globalization of the food trade has increased the risks of the spread of microbial or chemical hazards.

This was one of the health concerns raised at the recent meeting of the WHO Western Pacific regional committee meeting in Shanghai, China. Dr. Shigeru Omi, regional director of the WHO Western Pacific Office (WHO WPRO), called on government authorities to put more emphasis on food safety by allocating additional resources and doing more information dissemination.

Citing the outbreak of Avian influenza (bird flu) and current concerns about food contamination in the region, the WHO official urged authorities to reduce the risks of food-borne diseases at the level of production, processing and marketing.

Dr. Omi touched on the following issues: emergence in Asia of zoonoses (diseases transmitted to humans from animals); potential terrorist threats to food safety; and health and economic consequences of food contamination and food-borne illnesses in the region.

An ounce of prevention

For its part, the WHO Regional Committee urged member states to strengthen the following: information sharing on food safety; cooperation among ministries, industry and consumers; and control of live birds and animals for food. The committee also called on members to prevent emerging zoonotic diseases from growing to pandemic proportion.

Concerned consumer LBB (lindab@wave.com.ph) shares the following experience to warn readers about a dubious scheme using warranty cards:

"If you have just bought a new appliance and mailed back the warranty card to the manufacturer, you may get an unexpected phone call from a stranger announcing that your warranty card won in a raffle. The stranger will explain that the raffle was conducted by some kind of central desk where all warranty cards—regardless of appliance brand—are supposedly sent. Or, you could get a call from someone who supposedly picked up your warranty card somewhere. The caller will then offer to deliver the card to you, personally.

"Ignore such calls, or check with the manufacturer.

"I got such calls on the two occasions that I purchased new appliances. When I got the call about the raffle, I checked with the appliance manufacturer. They denied that their warranty cards were sent elsewhere, much less that there was a raffle.

"As for the 'kind' person who 'found' the warranty card, when I asked her to deliver it to my office (a media organization), which is easier to locate than my home, the finder was not heard from again."

We don't wonder at all why these scams are perpetuated. As most warranty cards are mailed without envelopes, all the personal data on the card are visible to all and sundry. The concerned consumer has the following advice: "The customer must inform the manufacturer and distributor about the loss of the warranty card and insist on getting a replacement. On the part of the manufacturers, they should have self-addressed stamped (even un-stamped) envelopes for warranty cards that can be sealed to keep the personal data of customers private."

Word of praise

A Global Cable subscriber (account number 703280) complained in this column last week about blurred cable television reception. The subscriber writes again to praise the speedy action by the customer care department and repair crew.

"True to the assurance of the cable service provider that customer complaints are resolved within 24 hours, the repair technicians responded to my complaint promptly after I reported the problem. They also called me up later to check that work was satisfactory.

"I don't regret leaving my previous cable TV provider that could not send a technician in less than six days, despite the fact they charged P200 for each visit. I hope this small, new company continues to give this kind of service no matter how big it gets."

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph

WHO asks government authorities to allocate more resources to ensuring food safety

Philippine Mission in Tokyo for F & B exhibit

TERESA DULA-LAUREL, president of Cater King Food Corporation and Mama Rosa, flew to Japan over the weekend with other participants to represent the Philippines in the Asean Food and Beverage Exhibition and Mission. The exhibit will be held at the Permanent Exhibition Hall (PEH) of the Asean-Japan Center (AJC) in Tokyo until today.

"I'm preparing Japanese food using Mama Rosa products such as sushi with fish roe, crab fat sauce and shrimp paste," said Laurel before departure.

The new Mama Rosa natural vinegar line will also be unveiled: coconut vinegar (regular); coconut vinegar with lemon chili; coconut vinegar with *galanggal*, garlic and chili; sugar cane vinegar; palm vinegar; palm vinegar with lemon chili; and palm vinegar with *galanggal*, garlic and chili.

"At the Asean exhibit in Tokyo last year," Laurel recalled, "people would crowd our booth, waiting for the food sampling or taste-test time. They would start queuing up when they see us mixing or preparing something—curious about what we'd be serving next. I realized then that we need to introduce true Filipino cuisine abroad. To them, it's a new product, a new taste."

Laurel said crowd favorites were mango salsa, green mangoes, onions, tomatoes, coriander and Mama Rosa *bagoong*.

Mama Rosa Crab Fat and Fish Roe Sauce perked up the curiosity of owners of sushi bars who found out that this would complement their own concoctions.

Laurel began developing sauces in 1988 as Christmas gifts to media friends and critics. Her bottled homemade recipes, especially her pioneering spicy boneless *tuyo* and spicy dried swordfish flakes in oil, were such hits that there was a clamor for her to make these available all year-round. Two years later, she started selling these bottled delicacies under the brand name Mama Rosa in honor of her late mother, Rosa Eco Dula.

Today, Mama Rosa produces 37 bottled Filipino delicacies, including six kinds of vinegar, five pickled dishes and eight seafood preparations. They are available at Goto King outlets and in the two Mama Rosa restaurants in Quezon City. Abroad, Mama Rosa products are sold in Filipino stores, supplied by *balikbayans* who purchase by the cartons whenever they are in the Philippines.

With the enthusiastic acceptance of its products, Mama Rosa is now preparing to formally enter the foreign market. It has already started by joining international trade fairs. The response has been encouraging.

With Laurel in the mission are Evenson Sian, president of Naturral Quality Corp.; Celina Q. Agas and Alma Argayoso, export managers of RFM Corp.; and members of the Virgin Coconut Oil Producers and Traders Association Inc. (VCNO), namely Jing Reyes of Manila Herbal; Maura Pasciolco of Pasciolco Agri-Ventures; and Teresa Santos of Prosource International. Santos is the vice president of VCNO. They were accompanied by Jessica Genovia, Project Manager for CITEM.

P 92.00*
P 78.00*
P 87.00*

Bitbit Sarap Treats 1
1 pc Double Dutch Slice
1 pc Chiffon Slice
1 pc Choco Slice
2 pcs Marble Slice
1 pc Butter Slice

Bitbit Sarap Treats 2
6 pcs Fluffy Mamon

Bitbit Sarap Treats 3
6 pcs Ensaymada Small

BITBIT SARAP TREATS
MAY KASAMANG LIBRENG
CARAMEL POPCORN!

SAVE AS MUCH AS P 10.50

Goldilocks
How Thoughtful. How *Pinoy.*

Promo is until October 31, 2004.

Bitbit Sarap Treats 4
6 pcs Caramel Popcorn Small

Bitbit Sarap Treats 5
2 pcs Snowy Glaze Chums
2 pcs Choco Loco Chums
2 pcs Color Me Berry Chums

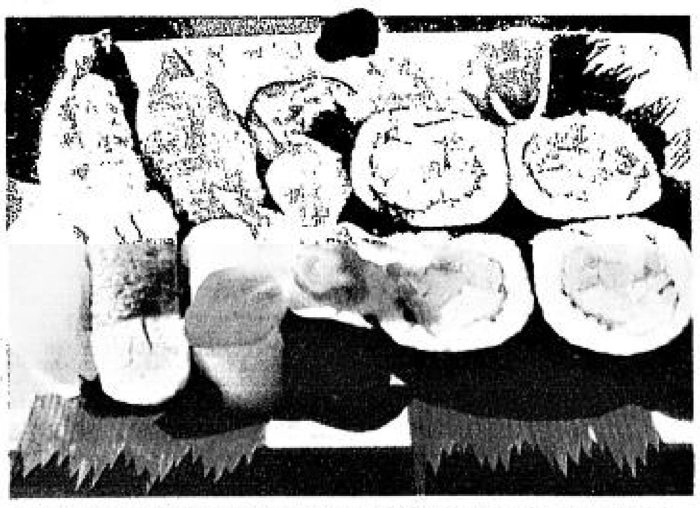
Bitbit Sarap Treats 6
3 pcs Peanut Butter Roll
3 pcs Cinnamon Roll

P 63.00*
P 90.00*
P 93.00*

Per BFAD Permit No. 1168, Series of 2004

*For Metro Manila only.

POTATO Frittata Italiano is featured in Italianni's breakfast menu, which includes Eggs Benedict, Continental Breakfast, Italian Sausage Roesti, omelette choices like Ham and Cheese, Cheese and Mushroom, Quattro Formaggio and Italianni's Special. This breakfast menu is served at the Greenbelt branch daily, 7-10 a.m.



SULO Hotel's Sushi Bar and Teppanyaki Restaurant features Nigiri Sushi Combination this month. Assorted imported sushi and sushi deluxe are offered at 50-percent off until Oct. 31. Grenoble Walnut Cake is the Cake of the Month at Patisserie. Call 9245051 to 71.

DIMSUM 'n Dumplings introduces Crab and Corn Balls, Salmon Tofu, Crab Sticks and Honey Ham Siomai. These are available at all Dimsum 'n Dumplings restaurant and kiosk outlets. Call 7219695 to 98.

Showcase of wild game

DINING OUT

MANDARIN Oriental Manila's The Tivoli offers wild-game cuisine until Oct. 17. The menu includes Pink Roasted Fillet of Deer on herb jelly and autumn salad; Duo of Wood Pigeon and Pheasant Breast on orange caramel sauce with polenta; Rack of Chamois on rosehip sauce with juniper berry spatzle and mushroom strudel and Wild Boar Roast on chestnut sauce with bacon lentil ragout and spinach strudel. Call 7508888.

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza's Café Plaza presents the flavors of Vietnam on Oct. 12-25. Specialties include Vietnamese Transparent Roll, Prawn Mousse on Sugar Cane, Duck and Banana Flower Salad, Stir Fried Crab with Tamarind Sauce and Green Bean Cake. Call 5515555.

HONSHU Japanese Restaurant offers US Beef Teppanyaki with potato salad or kesi salad with rice until Oct. 31. A special lunch and dinner set includes rice, miso soup, mixed tempura, grilled fish, sashimi of tuna, *tako*, *ika* and *nimono*, plus breaded pork, chicken teriyaki and fruit. Free iced tea will be served for every party of five persons. Call 5217813/ 0918-5477979.

MAKATI Shangri-La's Shang Palace presents Fujian cuisine. It includes Buddha Jumps over the Wall soup, Braised Shark's Fin with Crab Meat served with Rice, Braised Sea Cucumber with ginger and spring onions, Steamed Fresh Scallops with vermicelli and garlic, Fukkien Taro Duck, Steamed Beancurd with diced seafood and vegetable and Fuzhou's Lychee Chicken Meat. Call 8400884.

HOLIDAY Inn Galleria Manila features Black Forest this month at Raphael Café and Restaurant. Call 6337111.

HERITAGE Hotel Manila presents the Drink-All-You-Can promo until Oct. 31. Avail the Buy 1 Take 1 of Barchow Special, which includes Pork/Chicken Barbecue, Squid and Sausages, Chicharon Bulaklak and Crispy Shrimps. Call 8548888.

THE RICHMONDE Hotel's The Grill offers pasta creations, soups, salads, appetizers, sushi, a Mongolian grill station, special meat carving and fresh oysters. Call 6387777.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant presents Tom Yum Hotpot on Oct. 17-31. Call 8673333.

THE 888 Fishing Place, Bar and Restaurant features Fresh Grilled Tuna Panga, Grilled Tuna Belly, Grilled Pusit Lumot, Sinigang na Hipon, Steamed Talaba with chili and vinegar and Baked Tahong. 888 Fishing Place is at Covelandia Road, Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite. Call (046) 4340803.

Waffles, Pinoy style

SATISFY your sweet tooth with Waffle Time's array of sweet fillings: *ube*, apple and cinnamon, strawberries and cream, mangoes, chocolates, pineapple and peanut butter.

AN ENTERPRISING family in Iloilo has "Filipinized" the waffle through a well-guarded, fourth-generation recipe made from fresh cow's milk and eggs, plus a "secret ingredient" from the owner's great-grandmother.

Waffle Time tries to make waffles to suit every taste. It is the first in the country to come up with fillings like Ultimate Ube, Apple Cinnamon, Strawberry and Cream, Mango Magic, Swiss Chocolate, Pineapple Pleasure, Peanut Butter, American Hotdog, Cheese Delight, Tuna Salad, German Cheese Franks, Italian Sausage and Pinoy Longganisa.

Waffle Time has come up with 14 flavors, says Jorge Wieneke III, business development consultant. It now has 72 branches, including the original outlet in Iloilo. There are now 48 branches all over Manila, 15 in Iloilo and nine in Cebu.

Call 5509912 or e-mail costumerservice@waffletime.com.

AMERICAN hotdog, cheese, tuna salad, German cheese franks, Italian sausage and Pinoy *longganisa* make up Waffle Time's array of salty fillings.

Twice as Beautiful...Twice as Young-Looking.

Facial Care Centre Turns 22!

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DOUG KRAMER
PATTY BETITA & IRENE SALUD
BARBI CHAN
CRISTINA GARCIA
LANI MERCADO
SUZETTE ARRIESGADO & JENNY ICASAS
CHESCA GARCIA

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www.facialcarecentre.com.ph

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SHAW
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3/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.

BINONDO
Unit 0-1 City Plaza Tower

CONGRESSIONAL
2/F Q Plaza Bldg.

PAMPANGA
TEL: 961-3404
3/F Dan's Mktg. Bldg.

CEBU
TEL: 233-7631
Unit 1203 Keppel Centre

LIFESTYLE

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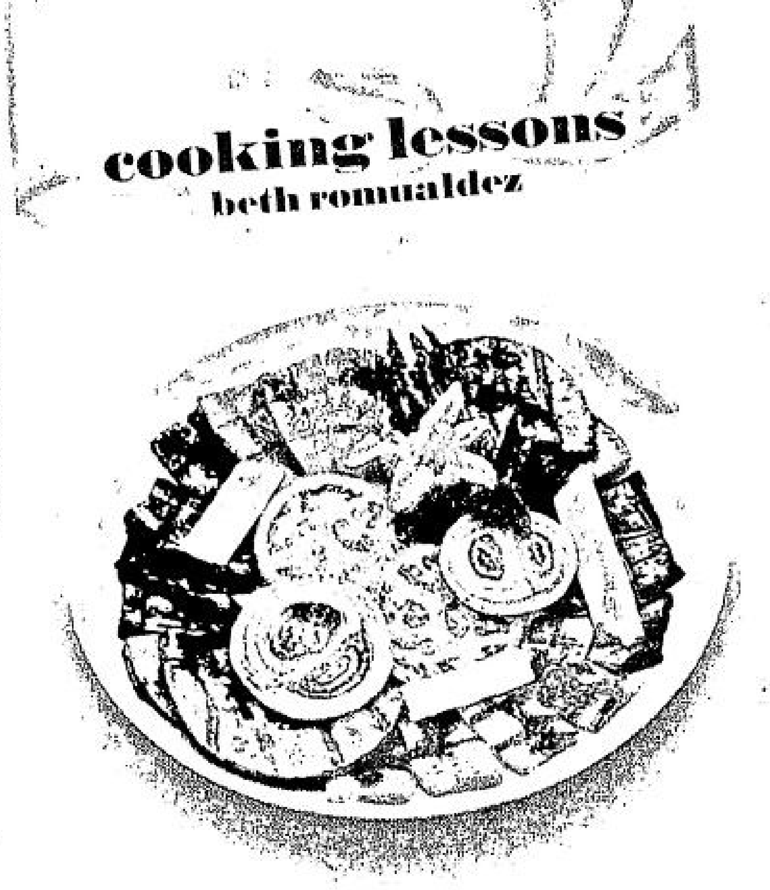
Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

ROMUALDEZ



Learn easy yet delicious everyday gourmet recipes from a brand-new cookbook

A teacher's teacher

THERE are people who come into your life and make a difference. In my case, it is Beth Romualdez.

I was 6 years old when my undying romance with food began. Thanks to my mom (my first kitchen icon and the best cook there is), whose kitchen skills and talent I'd like to think I inherited.

After mom, there followed a string of teachers who so kindly took me under their wings: from Tita Sylvia Reynoso to Ms Florendo, to Giulliano, Pierre and Luigi, the list goes on, 27 of them in all.

But none had a stronger influence than Tita Beth. She was, after all, my first gourmet cooking teacher, and I was her first student. My many firsts were with her: my first soufflé, fresh pasta, even a whole menu for a sit-down dinner. After years in her Avalon kitchen, she asked me to join her in one of her culinary sojourns to Europe.

When she returned to Manila to teach, I stayed behind for further studies. This was many moons ago.

Now history repeats itself. I have taken the same route she took—I am now a chef and a teacher.

Seven years ago, Beth set up a cooking school. When she gave up teaching, I took over and have been running the school for almost six years now—and counting. Yesterday she gave me the honor of introducing her at the launching of her book, "Cooking Lessons." (My own books are just around the corner.)

Without meaning to, our lives continued to run along parallel lines. A standing joke between us is that she must have been my mother in one of our many past lives. In fact, I fondly call her Mom.

Thank you, Mommy Beth, for holding on and for keeping up the fight, for paving the way for me, for being around to see what I've become. Thank you for everything you've done for me!

I suggest you get a copy of "Cooking Lessons" at the National Book Store. It contains easy yet delicious everyday gourmet recipes. Proceeds from sales will go to indigent women needing mammography for early breast cancer detection.

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

Yucky sponge

My kitchen sponge is dirty, gross even! What should I do?
—YSABEL

I guess throw it away! But, if for some sentimental reason you want to keep it, soak it overnight in a solution of half vinegar and half water. After soaking, rinse with water and bleaching soap.

Baby food

I'm Fritz of La Union. I'm only 16 but I already have a family. Can I have baby food recipes?

Wow, 16! Should I say congratulations? You sure started early! I'll give you a recipe and Popcom's number (5316650).

Homemade applesauce

My 8-month-old is allergic to preservatives. The pediatrician recommends homemade applesauce three times a day to ease his allergies, but I don't know how [to make it]. Give me a recipe and some tips on preparing baby food.
LORY TIU

My dear Lory, who is your pedia? I think there's something wrong here. I've heard about an apple a day, but apples all day? Perhaps your baby will say goodbye to allergies but say hello to constipation!

Anyway, here's an applesauce recipe and some tips. Don't know if there's a difference between baby and adult applesauce, apart from the spices and the fact that one group has teeth while the other is toothless!

But before making applesauce, I suggest you change doctors. Here's Dr. Aye Nuguid's number (7518652/6354729). He's wonderful and perhaps one of the best there is in his profession. Better yet, he has a twin who is equally able and competent, Dr. Ome Nuguid. I'm certain they'll agree that apples all day will not keep doctors like them away!

Baby food tips:

- Introduce only one type of food a week and monitor for allergic reactions. Only after this can you begin to mix and blend ingredients.
- Omit sugar, salt, strong seasonings.
- Use the freshest ingredients. I think organic is best.
- Choose food with the highest concentration of vitamins and minerals. Include greens, vegetables, fruits and tender, lean cuts of meat.
- Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly.
- Steam, instead of boil, to preserve as much nutrients as possible.
- Purée or mash baby food evenly and well.
- Don't serve undercooked meat or raw vegetables.
- I don't recommend freezing or keeping batches of baby food in the chiller. Make small quantities at a time. Prepare a new batch before each meal, if possible. Throw away leftover.
- Don't give babies below 1 year old honey, spinach, egg whites or fruits with high acid content (oranges, pineapples).
- For fresh fruit purées, use any fruit desired. Soft fruits like bananas could be directly puréed, while hard ones are best baked or steamed first.

Complete baby meal

Purée 1/3 cup flaked cooked chicken or beef (boiled and flaked) with 1/4 cup cooked white or brown rice and 1/2 cup of vegetables (carrots, beans, squash, broccoli, snow peas, asparagus, zucchini, etc.). Add stock or water to thin the mixture, depending on the desired consistency.

Applesauce: Quarter two apples. Remove pits. Bake in 350°F oven until soft. Remove skin and purée.

For questions or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.

Learn all about 'lumpia'

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts' schedule of classes for Oct. 8-13 follows:

Oct. 8—Crunchy Spring Rolls (all new). From authentic *Lumpia* and Asian Spring Rolls: Pinoy-style *Tinapa*, Thai, Vietnamese, Singaporean, to gourmet—seafood, duck, lobster, curry; side dishes

Oct. 9—Salt (all new). Salt Roasted Prawns, Salt Cured Whole Fried Turkey, Salt Crust Roast Mushroom Chicken, Salt Crust Roast Beef, Salt Crust Salmon; sauces, side dishes and condiments

Oct. 11—The Ultimate Crepe Workshop (all new). Savory, herbed, chocolate and dessert crepe recipes; filling—mushroom, ham, cheese, seafood, chicken and other savory variations; dessert crepe buffet (mixed fruit, creams and sauces); Crepe Suzette and Crepe Samurai

Oct. 13—Sinfully Delicious Desserts (all new). Green Tea Tiramisu, Green Tea Cheesecake, Tofu Cheesecake, Creme Brulée Egg Tarts, White Chocolate and Caramel Banana Cream Pie, Vanilla Bean Crepe Samurai, Apple Pie with Hazel Walnut Steusel, Butterscotch Sauce and Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 6474744 or 0917-8399888.

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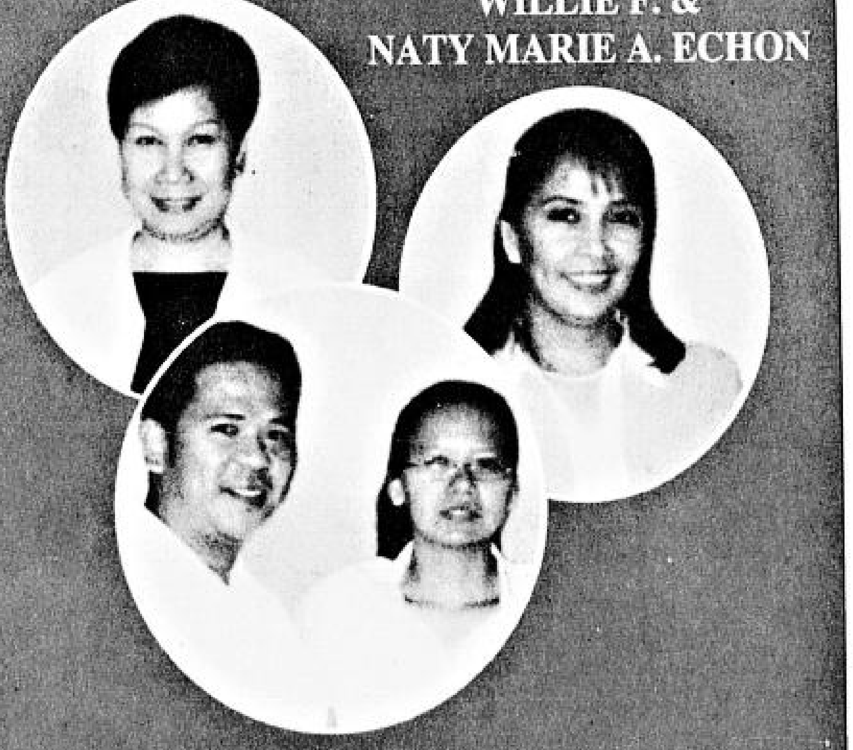

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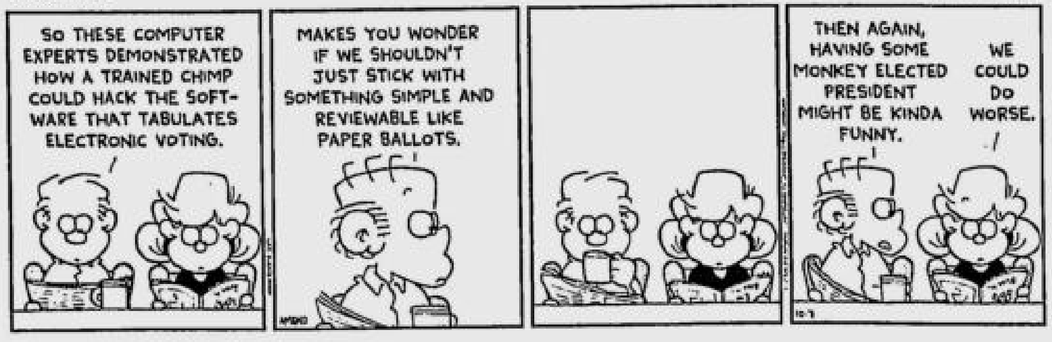
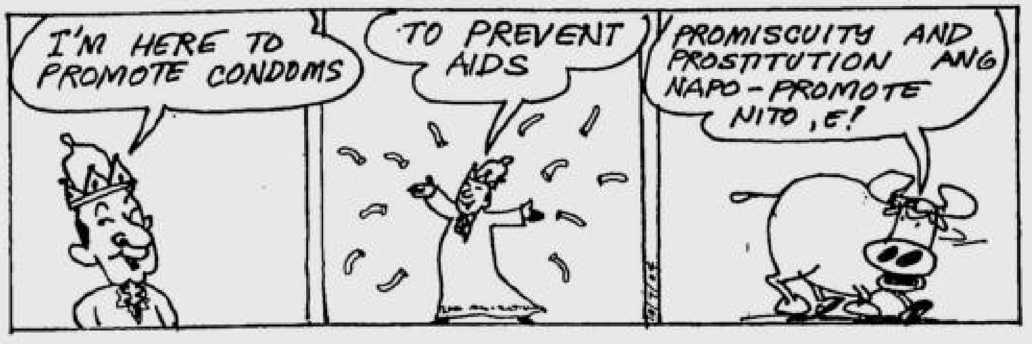
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1211, Series of 2004.

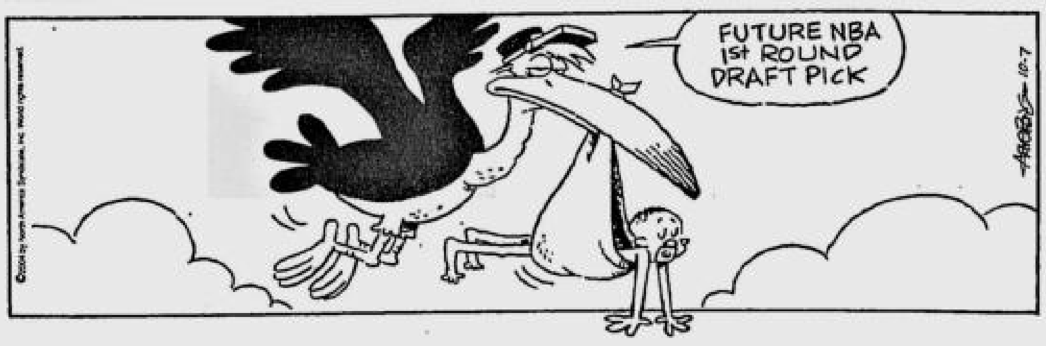
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


SO THESE COMPUTER EXPERTS DEMONSTRATED HOW A TRAINED CHIMP COULD HACK THE SOFTWARE THAT TABULATES ELECTRONIC VOTING.
MAKES YOU WONDER IF WE SHOULDN'T JUST STICK WITH SOMETHING SIMPLE AND REVIEWABLE LIKE PAPER BALLOTS.
THEN AGAIN, HAVING SOME MONKEY ELECTED PRESIDENT MIGHT BE KINDA FUNNY.
WE COULD DO WORSE.
10-7

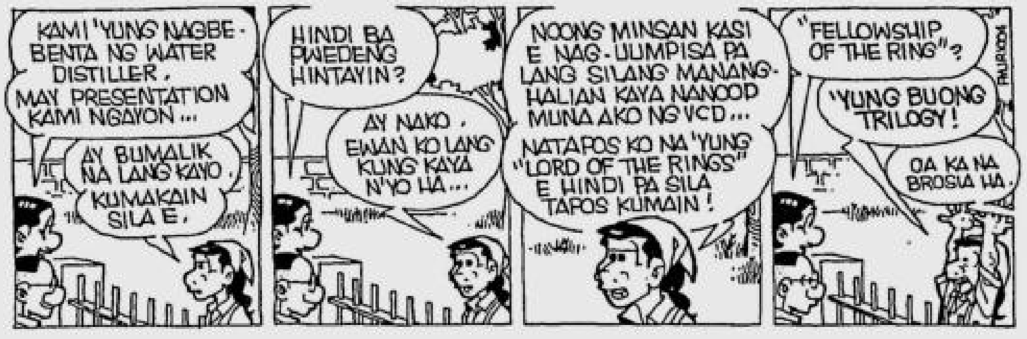
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


I'M HERE TO PROMOTE CONDOMS
TO PREVENT AIDS
PROMISCUITY AND PROSTITUTION ANG NAPO-PROMOTE NITO, E!

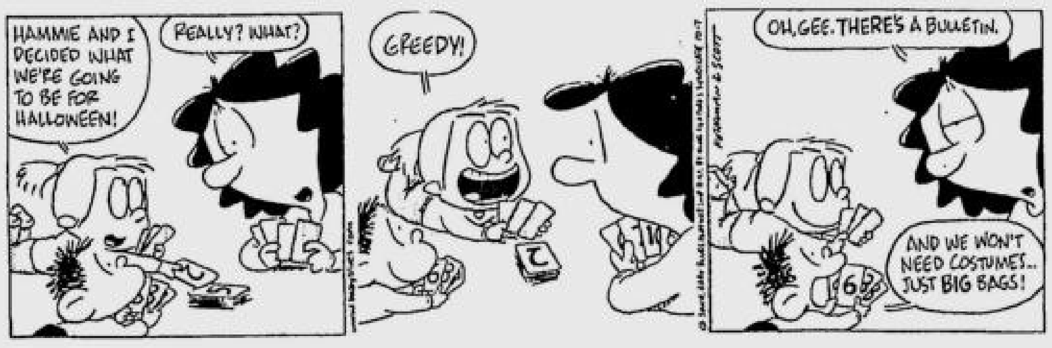
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


FUTURE NBA 1st ROUND DRAFT PICK
10-7

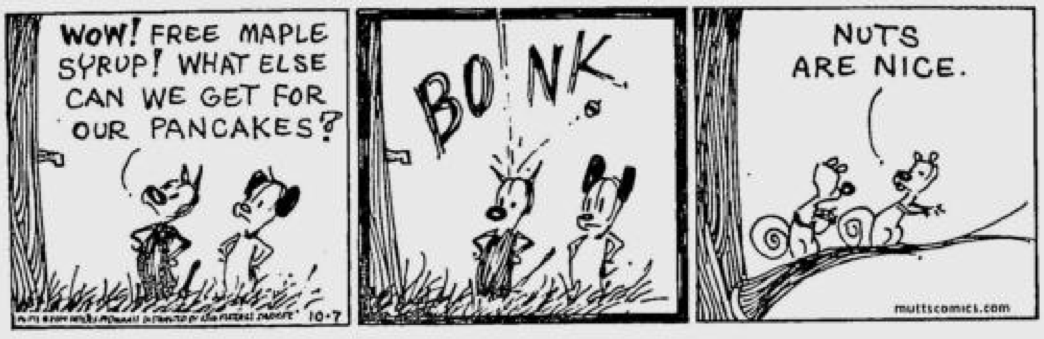
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAMI 'YUNG NAGBEBENTA NG WATER DISTILLER. MAY PRESENTATION KAMI NGAYON...
AY BUMALIK NA LANG KAYO. KUMAKAIN SILA E.
HINDI BA PWEDENG HINTAYIN?
AY NAKO. EWAN KO LANG KUNG KAYA N'YO HA...
NOONG MINSAN KASI E NAG-UUMPISA PA LANG SILANG MANANGHALIAN KAYA NANOOD MUNA AKO NG VCD...
NATAPOS KO NA 'YUNG "LORD OF THE RINGS" E HINDI PA SILA TAPOS KUMAIN!
"FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING"?
'YUNG BUONG TRILOGY!
OA KA NA BROSIA HA.

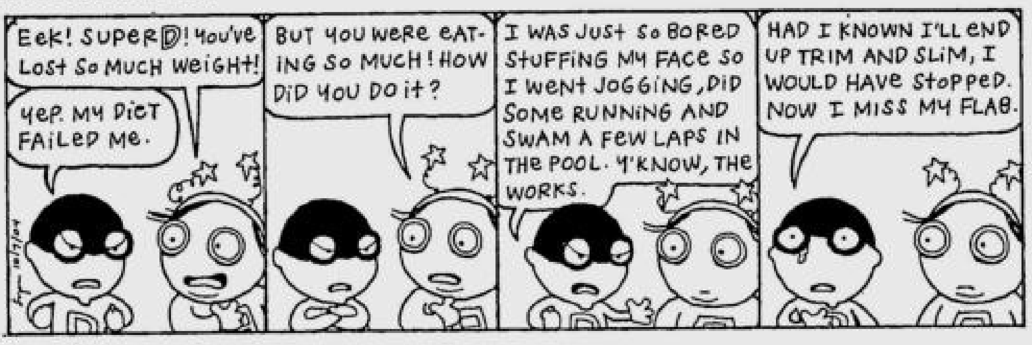
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE AND I DECIDED WHAT WE'RE GOING TO BE FOR HALLOWEEN!
REALLY? WHAT?
GREEDY!
OH, GEE. THERE'S A BULLETIN.
AND WE WON'T NEED COSTUMES... JUST BIG BAGS!

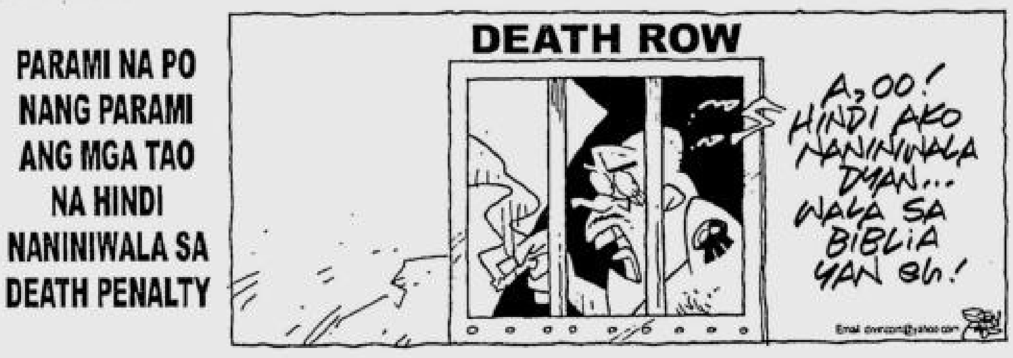
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WOW! FREE MAPLE SYRUP! WHAT ELSE CAN WE GET FOR OUR PANCAKES?
BONK
NUTS ARE NICE.
10-7
muttscomics.com

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Eek! SUPER D! You've Lost So MUCH WeiGHT!
yeP. MY DieT FAiLeD Me.
BUT YOU WeRe eATING So MUCH! HOW DiD YOU DO it?
I WAS JUST So BORED STUFFiNG MY FACE So I WeNT JOGGiNG, DiD SOMe RUNNiNG AND SWAM A FeW LAPS IN THe POOL. Y'KNOW, THe WORKS.
HAD I KNOWN I'LL eND UP TRIM AND SLiM, I WOULD HAVe StoPPeD. NOW I MISS MY FLAB.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


PARAMI NA PO NANG PARAMI ANG MGA TAO NA HINDI NANINIWALA SA DEATH PENALTY
DEATH ROW
A, OO! HINDI AKO NANINIWALA DYAN... WALA SA BIBLIA YAN eh!
Email: divincom@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are a committed idealist. Once you embrace a cause, you will not waver. You like to debunk the mystiques of sacred cows that are hypocritical. You understand how to work with groups and organizations. You will make positive contributions to the world. Personally, you're very charming. The year ahead holds major change for you.

Birthdate of: Toni Braxton, singer; Desmond Tutu, Nobel prize winner; R.D. Laing, rebel psychiatrist

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): With four planets opposite your sign, you have a wonderful opportunity to learn more about how you relate to others. Don't let this pass you by.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20): Follow that urge to get better organized. Put up shelves. Clean closets. Get rid of what you no longer need or use. You'll love yourself for all of this later.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): The next few weeks are the perfect time for a vacation. They're also a wonderful time for a love affair. You want to play, party and have fun! Go ahead—you have permission.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Now is the time to focus on family business and those you live with. Pay attention to renovations, home repairs and cleaning up chaos, wherever it is.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Short trips, appointments and conversations with practically everyone keep you hopping now. Time spent with a sibling is particularly significant. You have a lot you want to say.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're really focused on money. You're coming up with ideas about how to earn it, and you certainly have lots of ideas about how to spend it. Cash flow is sure happening!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Four planets are now in your sign. This gives you energy, enthusiasm and even power over others. Use this good fortune to improve your station in life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Even though you are socializing with friends now, you really need more rest and solitude. Respect this need. Pamper yourself with some privacy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Discussions with friends and groups are particularly meaningful now. Feedback from others matters to you. Tension with a friend is stressful now.

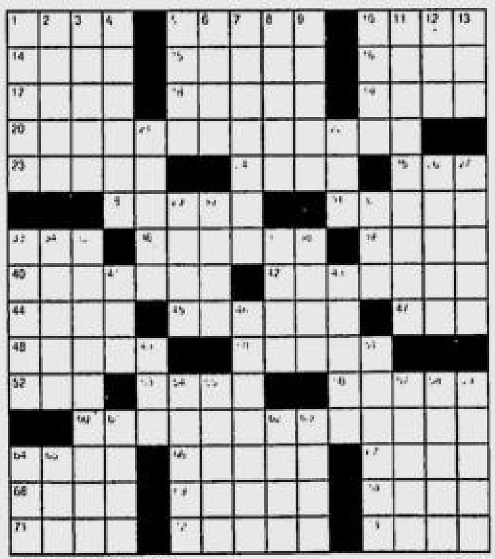
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): People have really noticed you lately. Four planets are at the top of your chart, drawing attention to you. Accept all responsibilities that are thrust upon you now. You will shine!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Travel, education and publishing are important to you now. Some of you are also involved with medicine and the law. These areas can benefit you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If you focus on red-tape matters connected with bills, debt, taxes, inheritances and insurance matters, you will come out ahead of the game. You're lucky right now!

DAILY CROSSWORD

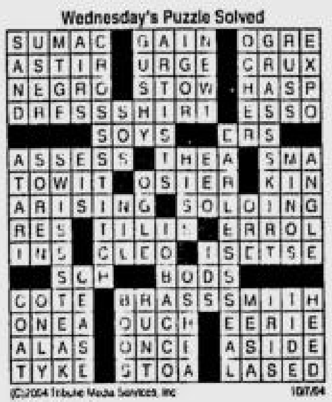
ACROSS
1 Go a round with?
5 Man from Japan
10 Miniature race car
14 Singer Amos
15 Sonata movement
16 Middle Eastern ruler
17 Employs
18 Georgia city
19 Catch sight of
20 Start of Yogi Berra quote
23 Kenneth or Ringo
24 "... ___ the twain shall meet"
25 Samuel's teacher
28 Asian palms
31 Stage frontage
33 Existed
36 Loving touch
39 Thor's father
40 Part 2 of quote
42 Part 3 of quote
44 Castle protector
45 Part of SSA
47 Mal de ___
48 Moved in a curved path
50 Arrangement
52 Born as
53 Abreast of
56 Remove soap
60 End of quote
64 Reverberate
66 Make amends
67 Kinnear or Louganis
68 Clark's love
69 Principle of faith
70 Feudal serf
71 Run easily
72 Ringlet of hair
73 Start a new hand



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
10/7/04

DOWN
1 Bedazzles
2 Postulate
3 Boxing venue
4 Stair elements
5 Military force
6 Cleansing agent
7 Infuriate
8 Revere
9 Time being
10 Peachy follower?
11 Netherlands capital
12 Actor Torn
13 Attempt
21 Pamphlet
22 Notable period
26 Longest French river
27 Word before tube or city
29 Hoods' guns
30 Approximately
32 Kitty
33 NOW member
34 Ere
35 Astronaut's craft
37 Ruckus
38 Herring cousin
41 Shoshone
43 All ears
46 Disregard an offense
49 Pair
51 Fixed
54 Brooklyn art institute
55 River frolicker
57 Ancient Scandinavian
58 Tuscany tourist city
59 Actress Georgia
61 Stockings
62 Billfold fillers
63 Trawlers' equipment
64 Building addition
65 Sound dovish

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved


SUMAC GAIN OGRE
ASTIR URGE CRUX
NEGRO STOW HASP
DRESSSHIRT ESSO
SOYS ERS
ASSESS THEA SMA
TOWIT OSIER KIN
ARISING SOLOING
RES TILIS ERROL
INS CLEO TSETSE
SCH BODS
COTE BRASSSMITH
ONEA OUCH EERIE
ALAS ONCE ASIDE
TYKE STOA LASED

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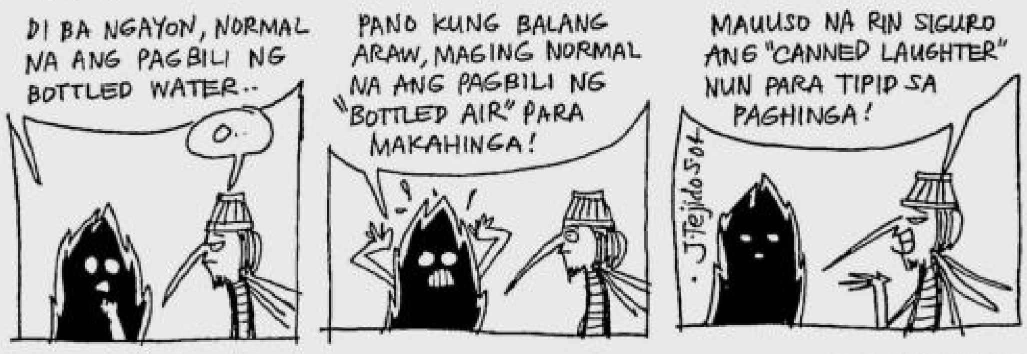
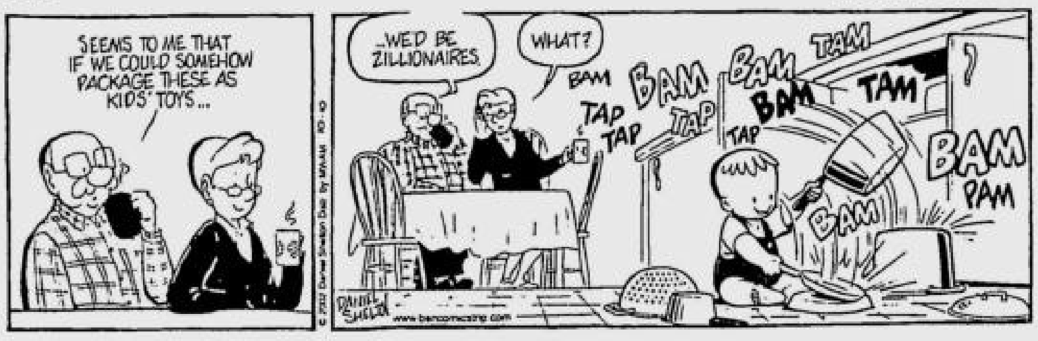
10/7/04

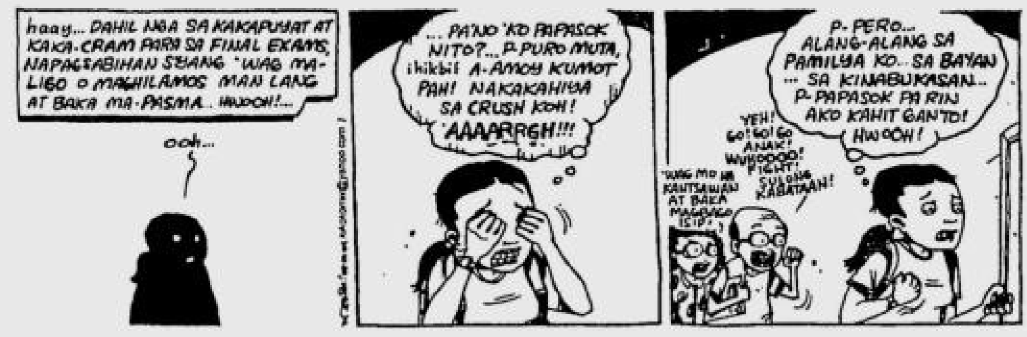
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DI BA NGAYON, NORMAL NA ANG PAGBILI NG BOTTLED WATER..
O..
PANO KUNG BALANG ARAW, MAGING NORMAL NA ANG PAGBILI NG "BOTTLED AIR" PARA MAKAHINGA!
MAUUSO NA RIN SIGURO ANG "CANNED LAUGHTER" NUN PARA TIPID SA PAGHINGA!
J.Tejido.504

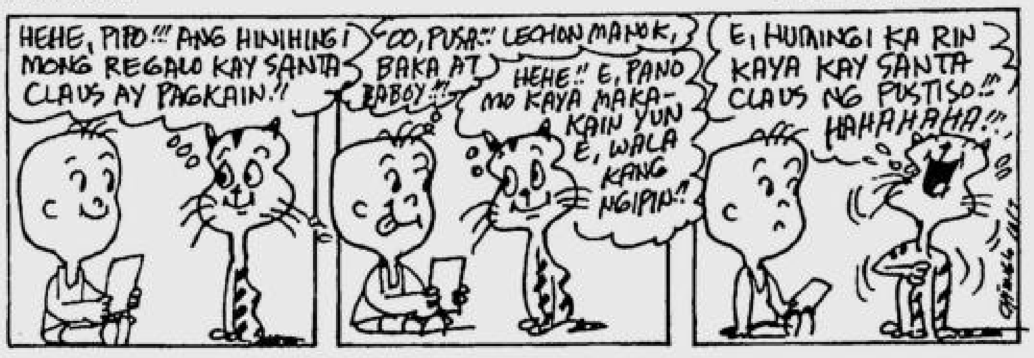
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


SEEMS TO ME THAT IF WE COULD SOMEHOW PACKAGE THESE AS KIDS' TOYS...
...WE'D BE ZILLIONAIRES.
WHAT?
BAM
TAP TAP
BAM
TAP
BAM
TAM
BAM
TAP
TAM
BAM
BAM
PAM
www.bencomicstrip.com

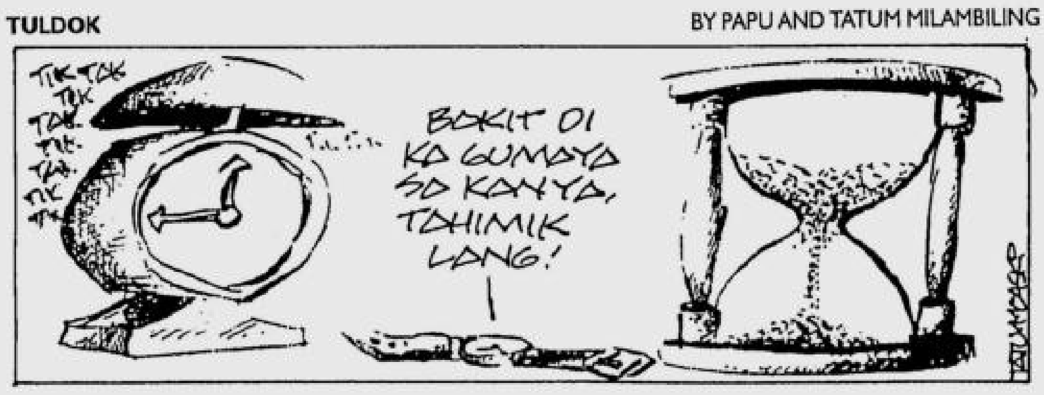
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


haay... DAHIL NGA SA KAKAPUYAT AT KAKA-CRAM PARA SA FINAL EXAMS, NAPAGSABIHAN SYANG "WAG MALIGO O MAGHILAMOS MAN LANG AT BAKA MA-PASMA... HWOOH!...
ooh...
...PA'NO 'KO PAPASOK NITO?... P-PURO MUTA, ihikbi! A-AMOY KUMOT PAH! NAKAKAHIYA SA CRUSH KOH! 'AAAARRGH!!!
P-PERO... ALANG-ALANG SA PAMILYA KO... SA BAYAN ... SA KINABUKASAN... P-PAPASOK PA RIN AKO KAHIT GANTO! HWOOH!
YEH! GO! GO! GO ANAK! WHOOOO! FIGHT!
SULONG KABATAAN!
'WAG MO NA KANTSAWAN AT BAKA MAGBAGO ISIP.

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HEHE, PIPO!!! ANG HINIHINGI MONG REGALO KAY SANTA CLAUS AY PAGKAIN!!
OO, PUSA!! LECHON MANOK, BAKA AT BABOY!!!
HEHE!! E, PANO MO KAYA MAKAKAIN YUN E, WALA KANG NGIPIN!!
E, HUMINGI KA RIN KAYA KAY SANTA CLAUS NG PUSTISO!!! HAHAHAHA!!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TIK TAK TIK TAK TIK TAK TIK TAK
BAKIT DI KA GUMAYA SA KANYA, TAHIMIK LANG!

GLAD
P10.00 OFF
Oven Bags
For Gas Electric & Microwave Ovens
25x38cm
10 BAGS
GLAD
P10.00 OFF
Oven Bags
For Gas Electric & Microwave Ovens
25x38cm
BAGS

GLAD
OVENWARE

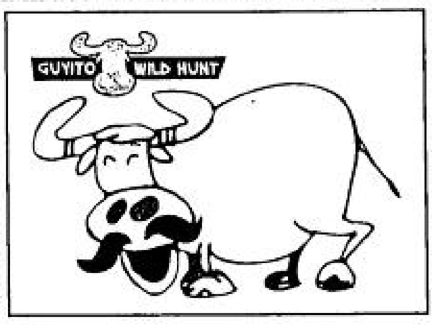
Mess-free microwave cooking

MAKE microwave cooking convenient and mess-free by using the right cooking items, like Glad wraps, bags and containers.

- **Tops for popcorn.** Place ¼ c popcorn and 2 tsps butter in a Glad Oven Bag. Loosely twist the top, then microwave on high for 3-4 minutes, or until the corn kernels have popped. Made from heat-resistant (up to 200°C) polyester material, Glad Oven Bags make conventional and microwave oven cooking faster, easier and cleaner.
- **Merry Meringues.** You can freeze egg whites to make meringue later by using a 280 ml Glad Ware container. When you are ready to use them, defrost in the microwave oven. Glad Ware is a convenient storage for pre-prepared meals or leftovers to be frozen until needed.
- **Paper cover.** Use Glad Bake to keep food from becoming dry when microwaving. Cover meat loaves and fish with Glad Bake so they remain moist and flavorful. Glad Bake creates no-stick cakes, and its special non-stick coating doesn't require oil when roasting vegetables and preparing foods.
- **Rice and shine.** To heat risotto and other rice-based dishes, put food in a Glad Ware container. Cover loosely with the lid. Heat in the microwave while stirring every few minutes on medium/50 percent, until the rice is hot. Glad Ware containers can be used for cooking and packing lunches, storing and re-heating leftovers or preparing family meals.
- **Chicken for all occasions.** Steam chicken in a Glad Oven Bag. Shred the meat and use it in soups, salads or frittatas.

The juices of meat, poultry, fish and vegetables remain in the Glad Oven Bag, avoiding splatter on microwave oven walls.

- **No spills, no leaks.** Bring your *baon* using a Glad Ware Container, then reheat in the microwave. The lid of Glad Ware fits tightly so food won't leak into your bag. The air-tight seal remains even after many uses in the microwave and many washes.
- **Food parcel.** Pack food in Glad Microwave Wrap, store in the freezer then defrost and reheat in the microwave. The wrap withstands high temperatures and prevents strong odors from "contaminating" other dishes in the refrigerator.


GUYITO WILD HUNT

NAME ________________
ADDRESS ________________
CONTACT NO. ________________
SIGNATURE ________________

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Promo Period: Sept. 27- Dec. 14, 2004
Deadline of Entries:
Monthly Draws: October 17 and Nov. 17, 2004
Grand Draw: Dec. 14, 2004
Draw Dates:
Monthly Draw: October 22 and Nov. 22, 2004
Grand Draw: Dec. 21, 2004

See posters and print ads for details.
Per DTI Permit No. 2147, series of 2004

Drop in drop boxes located at Ayala and Robinson's cinema lobbies, and all LBC and Netopia branches. You may also mail entries to: Guyito Wild Hunt, PDI Bldg., corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Chino Roces Ave., Makati City.

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The wild chase is on for Inquirer's Guyito!

Look for the specially-marked Guyito coupon in the pages of Inquirer. Cut out, put your name, address and signature. Drop at designated drop boxes for a shot at your most wanted rewards!

Join the fun as Inquirer celebrates 19 exciting years of giving Filipinos no less than balanced news and fearless views.

Hunt from September 27 to December 14, 2004!

See posters and print ads for more details.

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Lipton Ice Tea
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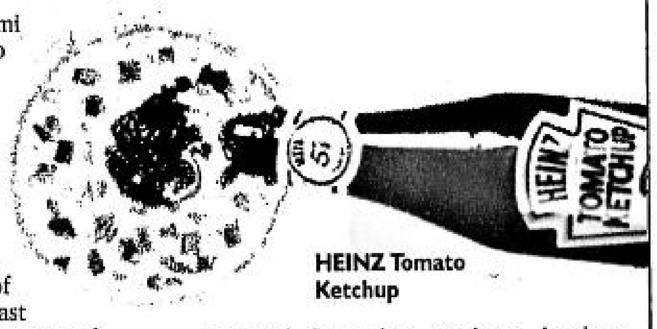
Successor to horseradish now global favorite

MORE and more restaurants in Metro Manila are now using Heinz Tomato Ketchup, the tomato-based food enhancer that traces its beginnings to, of all things, horseradish.

In fact, Heinz Tomato Ketchup has become as much a part of the table setting as silverware anywhere in the world, underscoring a strong market leadership by global food giant H. J. Heinz Company where ketchup, condiments and sauces are concerned.

So captive has this ketchup brand held the world's tastebuds that without it, both kids and adults won't find eating completely pleasurable and nourishing. Something is missing if, for instance, kids are served fried chicken or French fries without a splash or dash of ketchup to flavor them red.

And if it's ketchup they are after, they're most probably thinking of Heinz Tomato Ketchup. Consider the figures:



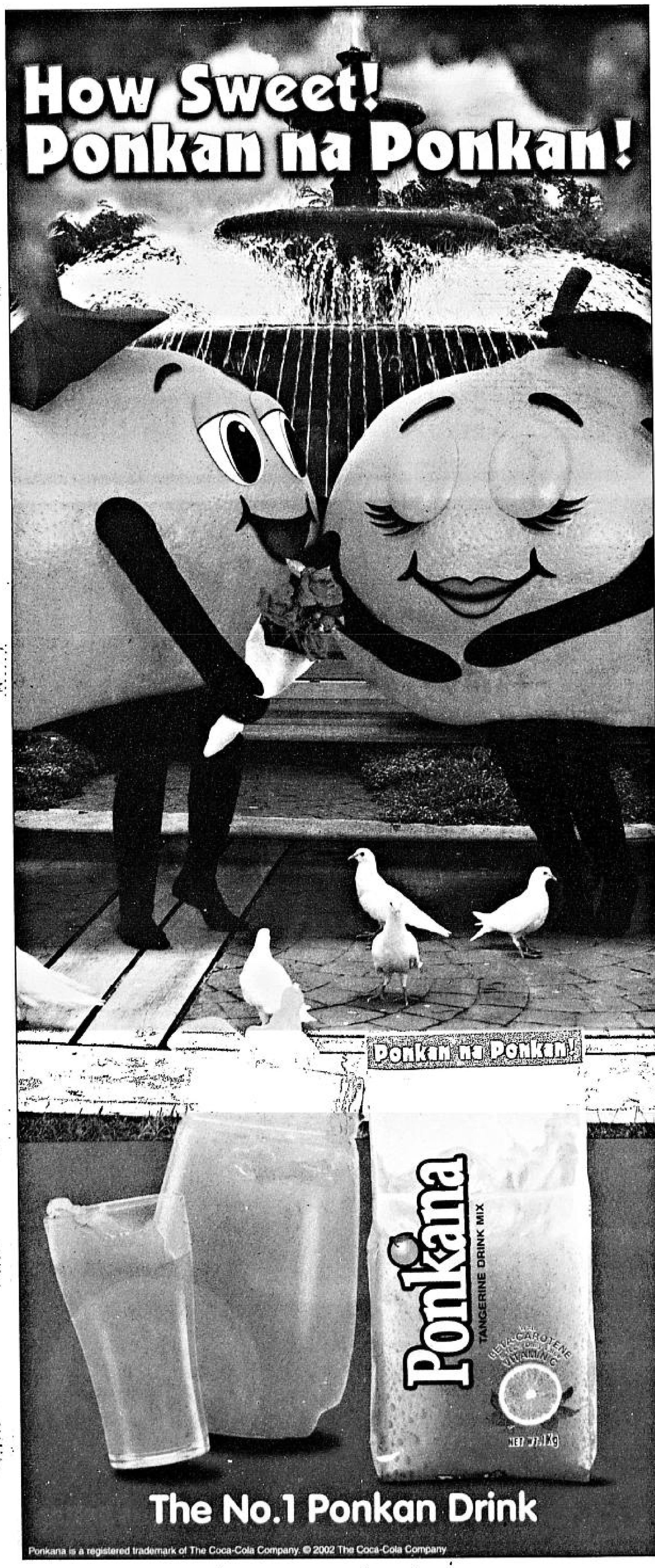
HEINZ Tomato Ketchup

From Manila to Miami and from Montreal to Mumbai, the Heinz Co., which in 1869 began producing and selling bottled horseradish for its first product, sells 650 million bottles of ketchup yearly. The global tomato expert makes 11 billion packets of ketchup annually or at least two packets for every person on earth.

Since the business empire founder, Henry Heinz, sold bottled horseradish in 1869, the Heinz Co. has put premium on an important idea that was to shape the business from Day One. He believed—and he was proven right later—that "a pure article of superior quality will find a ready market through its intrinsic value, if properly packaged and promoted..."

As he did with horseradish, the Heinz patriarch took his stand on quality and proudly displayed his other products—ketchup, condiments, and sauces. It is this tradition that keeps the Heinz products brand leaders in the world.

In Manila, Heinz ketchup is used by Pizza Hut, Yellow Cab, Wendy's Hamburgers, Tropical Hut Hamburger, Brothers Burger, Hotshots Flame Grilled Hamburgers, Chili's Restaurant, Burgoo, TGIF, Outback Steakhouse, Tony Roma's and National Sports Grill, as well as bars, hotels and resorts nationwide.



Ponkana is a registered trademark of The Coca-Cola Company. © 2002 The Coca-Cola Company

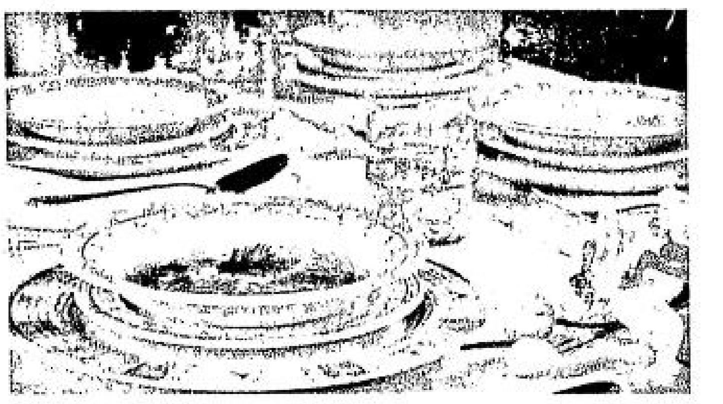
O!

Did you know?

Fun trivia all about Oranges

- Mandarin orange or Ponkan originated from south-eastern Asia and the Philippines.
- Orange trees first grew in China and were taken to Europe by Arab traders more than 1,000 years ago.
- Oranges were popular among Spanish settlers and native Indians who would casually drop orange seeds as they traveled, unknowingly planting orange trees all over Florida. Now, Florida is the largest orange producing state in the United States!
- If you plant a single seed from an orange, you'll probably get more than one plant growing from it.
- Orange trees are evergreens, less than 30 ft. in height. The leaves are oval and shiny and the flowers are white and sweet-scented.
- The orange is technically a hesperidum, a type of berry.
- In Queen Victoria's day, oranges were given as Christmas gifts in England.
- British sailors used to be called "Limeys" because they ate oranges and lemons to prevent scurvy, a sickness caused by a lack of Vitamin C.
- Oranges are highly valued for their Vitamin C content. Even a medium-sized orange contains the required daily dose of Vitamin C for an adult.
- An orange joke: What can a whole orange do that half an orange can never do? LOOK ROUND!

Now that you know some orange ins and outs, get the real taste of Ponkan orange with Ponkana


TUPPERWARE's Springtime collection

Make home eating pleasurable

TUPPERWARE Philippines offers some useful advice for home managers who want to make the most of their limited resources.

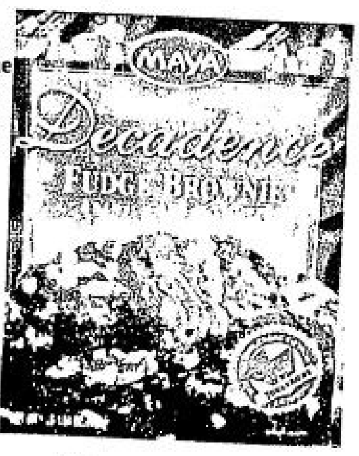
Eat in, not out. Make home cooking and eating a pleasurable routine and save on expensive restaurant bills. Home cooking may also be healthier.

Use elegant dinnerware at home every day, not just for special occasions or only for guests. Even simple dishes look extra special when served on stylish tableware. For the budget-conscious, Tupperware's premium dinnerware, like the complete Springtime and Crystal Collection melamine sets, may be a good alternative.

Tupperware is shock-proof; stain-, chip- and crack-resistant; odorless, safe and nontoxic; easy-to-clean; dishwasher safe; and elegantly designed.

Text 0917-813TUPP (0917-8138877) or call 8454798. E-mail philmktg@tupperware.com, or write to Tupperware Philippines, P.O. Box 1331, Makati Central Post Office 1253, Makati City.

MAYA Decadence Fudge Brownie Mix



New line of cake mixes

LIBERTY Commodities has introduced Decadence, its latest line of cake mixes.

First on the line is the fudge brownie mix for moist, fudgy, chocolatey brownies. A bar of Toblerone Swiss milk chocolate comes with the mix for frosting.

Boosting its premium image is the design executed in vibrant colors—cyan, blue and magenta. Gold stamping process was adopted for the Maya and Decadence logos. The pot and kettles design of the Maya brand was rendered in gold.

Maya Decadence Brownie Mix is now available in selected supermarkets.

The Italian wafer

LOACKER, the Italian brand known for premium wafer, is a product of the over 75 years marriage of the company's traditional family recipes and state-of-the-art technology.

Loacker's philosophy is "natural, light and delicious." The wafers are made at an altitude of 1,000 meters in the Tyrolean mountains to ensure that clean air and water are used in making the dough. Only carefully selected natural ingredients—hazelnuts from Naples, pure chocolate and authentic vanilla from Bourbon Islands—are used. Loacker products have no hydrogenated fats, artificial flavorings and preservatives.

All products are packed as soon as they come out of the oven to guarantee freshness.

Loacker has a wide range of wafer varieties to suit everyone's fancy. Classic is thin while Quadratini is cubed. Minis are individually packed. Classic favorites are Napolitaner (hazelnut) and Kremkakao (cocoa). Milk Vanilla and the Vanilla lines are also popular.

New in the market is the Gran Pasticceria (confectionery) line, including Tortina, wafer filled with rich praline cream and roasted hazelnuts, Crème Noisette, Cappucino and Noir Orange, milk chocolate filled with different creams.

Loacker, from Benby Enterprises, is available at leading supermarkets nationwide.

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